

STOURBRIDGE CHRONICLE



Thursday, January 8, 2015

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TAPIR TALLY

Counting the creatures at attraction



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NED'S BOOK

Old days are Gornal but not forgotten



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Parties in talks over festival proposals

PLANS are being developed ahead of this year's Black Country Day festival with councillors meeting to exchange ideas.

Leaders from Dudley Council's main political parties have been invited for talks to further develop the 2015 event.

Plans are currently at an early stage but all parties have been asked to bring their proposals to the table.

UKIP group leader in Dudley, Councillor Paul Brothwood is looking to promote the festival by creating school champions.

Schools

Wordsley representative Councillor Brothwood believes the champions will help raise awareness of the event.

He said: "I'm hoping that schools would like to take part in the event."

"I'd like to take the idea further by linking schools together through their champions."

"Last year's Black Country Festival, which was run through the community, proved a huge success and I feel that through school champions it will only help people understand their identity."

"I also want it to be non-political because this is a community festival."

Fashion chain jobs at risk

STRUGGLING clothing retailer Bank has become the first high street store to go into administration following the Christmas rush, putting more than 1,500 jobs at risk.

The firm operates 84 stores nationwide - including one at the Merry Hill shopping centre - and all stores remain open as normal.

No redundancies have been made while administrator Deloitte is considering interest in the business from several parties.

ZOO SUCCESS IS ANIMAL MAGIC

Man is in court over body in basement

A MAN from the Black Country has appeared in court charged with the murder of a father who was found in the basement of a house in Rowley Regis.

The body of Baljit Singh was discovered at the house in Beeches Road on New Year's Day.

He had been missing since December 23 when he had left his home in Birmingham to collect a birthday cake for his son.

Stuart Millership, who is accused of killing 50-year-old Mr Singh, was remanded in custody at Sandwell Magistrates' Court on Monday.

Plea

Millership, aged 32, of Beeches Road, Rowley Regis, spoke only to confirm his name.

He was set to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court yesterday (Wednesday) for a plea and case management hearing.

Millership was arrested on New Year's Eve in Kingswinford.

A post mortem found that the victim, Mr Singh, from Meadow Road, Harborne, Birmingham, had died as a result of head injuries and a knife wound to the neck.

He has been a Glassboys regular, notching up more than 250 appearances over the last five seasons. But the midfielder's career has been temporarily halted after his horrific accident in a game at Matlock Town earlier this season. Ben ran to chase a loose ball but his boot got caught in the heavy turf.

The 25-year-old fell to the ground and dislocated his ankle, causing fractures to his tibia and fibula and snapping two ligaments.

"I looked up and the ankle was facing the backwards - I thought 'that isn't good,'" said Ben, who lives in Kestrel Road, Colley Gate. He had an operation and may face another.

The club has held collections for him and opened a bank account to allow fans to help out.

He added: "The club's support has been fantastic and so has the fans. They have been legends."

A MOTORCYCLIST was taken to hospital with a suspected broken leg after hitting the back of a bus.

The accident happened in Moor Street, Brierley Hill, at around 3.25pm on Saturday. Firefighters believe the bike slid on a metal drain cover after rain made roads greasy. They helped raise the bus to allow them to pull the bike from underneath it.

The road, near the junction with North Street, was blocked for up to an hour after the accident.

Fans rallying around injured player



Stourbridge Town footballer Ben Billingham suffered a horrific injury on the pitch

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Charity making bid for £350,000

A CHARITY which helps vulnerable people and those recovering from alcohol and drug addictions in Dudley is bidding for more than £350,000.

The cash would be used to fund a new base and increase its range of support services.

Summit House Support, which has been running for more than 20 years, is in Martin Hill Street.

Bosses have now bought bigger premises within the St Thomas's ward – one of Dudley's most deprived areas to enable them to expand.

The charity provides programmes and support for people recovering from drug and alcohol misuse.

It also offers support, advice and information for people living with HIV/AIDS as well as the lesbian,

gay, bisexual and transgender communities.

The charity has been working with Dudley Council on its application for £350,000 from Public Health England.

Some of the money will be used to set up a kitchen for training and a cafe.

While there would also be work units and rooms where support

groups could be run. Council chief executive John Polychronakis said it would enable the charity to have a bigger presence in St Thomas's.

"Summit House Support have recently purchased a property in the St Thomas's Ward which is bigger than the existing building and will enable the delivery of a wide range of high quality services. The space will be utilised to include offices."

Boss must pay up to clear pile of rubbish

A MAN who failed to clear up a towering pile of rubbish in Brierley Hill faces having his assets seized following a court ruling.

Refuse Derived Fuel Ltd director Robert McNaughton served a term in jail last year for failing to comply with a court order to clear the site in Moor Street. But the Environment Agency continues to struggle to get the 19ft high rubbish pile cleared.

Now a man has been granted a writ of sequestration from the High Court, allowing officials to seize assets from Mr McNaughton and the company. The assets would then be used to pay for clearing up the site.

Harriet Templar-Vasey, agency spokesman said: "We are continuing to take legal action to force Refuse Derived Fuel Limited and its director, Robert McNaughton, to clear the remaining waste from the site.

"We have recently obtained a writ of sequestration from the High Court. Enforcement officers have visited both Mr McNaughton and the company, and are currently investigating what assets can be seized. It is possible that there will be further court hearings."

Boy in court after stabbing

A 14-year-old schoolboy has appeared in court charged with attempted murder after a stabbing on a Dudley bus.

The teenager from Dudley is accused of stabbing a 29-year-old man in Burton Road last Friday. He appeared at Warley Magistrates' Court on Monday. The case was adjourned and the teenager will reappear at Wolverhampton Crown Court tomorrow (Friday).

The man stabbed remains in hospital. A 19-year-old woman also injured on the bus has been released from hospital after treatment.

Variety show

COMEDIAN and actor Duggie Brown compères a night reliving the Good Days of Variety at Dudley Town Hall. Due to repairs at the venue, the afternoon show has been moved back from March 3 to October 13. Tickets are £11. Call (01384) 812812.

Children in saddle thanks to new fund

A FUND set up in memory of a Stourbridge GP has been launched to help children with special needs learn how to ride horses.

An open day at The Wyke Equestrian Centre, near Shifnal, in Shropshire, signalled the start of The Liz Pope Memorial Fund.

The fund was set up by the family and friends of Dr Pope, who died at her home in Claverley within two hours of being involved in a car accident. The 38-year-old was a GP partner in the Three Villages Medical Practice serving Amblecote and Wollaston.

Her sister Pippa said: "Liz was passionate about horses. The Liz Pope Memorial Fund was set up to provide small grants to enable children with special needs to enjoy the therapeutic benefits of riding and interaction with horses and ponies."

"The fund has been set up by her husband Trevor, our parents David and Diana Chantrey, my sister Frances, myself and other family members and friends."

Dr Pope, despite being diagnosed with a hole in the heart and later with thyroid cancer, had an active life which included horse riding.

Recycle cards at supermarket

SHOPPERS can recycle their Christmas cards and wrapping paper at Sainsbury's stores in the Black Country.

The supermarket chain is collecting the items for the Forest Stewardship Council and last year raised more than £9,000.

Used cards and wrapping paper can be dropped into collection boxes until Tuesday, January 13. They will be recycled and a donation made to FSC UK.

Amblecote store manager Kevin Healy said: "We had a really good response from our customers last year."

Swift bus move

AN Oyster-style bus card will be available across the West Midlands in the next few months, bosses say.

Centro is introducing the electronic Swift smartcard. Currently the cards are only accepted by some bus companies but operators are poised to extend it.

Manager has trainees cooking on gas

A MANAGER who is helping to train the next generation of gas engineers has been honoured by Stourbridge College.

Allan Ovington, regional service operations manager for Worcester-based Bosch Group, has been the driving force behind the training programme.

He has taken apprentices from all over the country through their Level 3 Diploma in gas utilisation at the college's Advanced Technology Campus in Brierley Hill.

The partnership between the college and Bosch Group has been running for five years.

Mr Ovington was presented with a Fellowship Award for his work.

Mr Ovington, said: "It is really nice to be recognised in this way at such a wonderful event which highlights how important progression is for people who want to improve both personally and professionally."

"From my perspective I find it nourishing to be involved in the future of our business by ensuring that employees are trained and have the opportunities to progress."

"We have been really impressed with the high standards of teaching and learning as well

as the knowledge and experience of staff." Other award winners at the Higher Education Awards Graduation Ceremony were Stephen Booth of Straumann UK, Lee Ratcliffe of Jaguar Land Rover and James Villarreal of Glide UK.

Andrew Cleaves, principal at Birmingham Metropolitan College, which runs Stourbridge College, said: "On behalf of the college, students, staff and the governing body, I congratulate them all and offer my thanks for their much-valued support and continuing friendship."



College principal Andrew Cleaves with Allan Ovington

Boss of theatre campaign in vow to carry on project

CAMPAIGNERS wanting to reopen the Dudley Hippodrome as a theatre are refusing to give up their fight – despite their proposal being dismissed by the new leader of the borough council.

The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group suffered a blow after Councillor Pete Lowe claimed the members' business case was not viable.

It comes two years after a previous proposal by the group for the venue, last used as a theatre 50 years ago, was turned down.

Their latest business plan would see the venue refurbished with 1,600 seats.

Funding would be raised from grants and from renting out meeting rooms.

Discuss

Councillor Lowe has claimed that the group's business case 'didn't stand up', inviting the members for a meeting to discuss other platforms to provide arts space in the borough.

Group chairman Gordon Downing said members will not give up on their scheme.

He said: "It is disappointing the members found out through the newspaper rather than being contacted beforehand, it has left a lot of people upset. But we are not giving up. I want to have a meeting and find out how the decision on our business case was made.

"Our figures do stand up.

Under the business plan, the projected running costs would stand at £112,000 but could be reduced by at least 80 per cent if the group was granted charitable status.

The Hippodrome would be open 250 days a year with 10 full-time staff.

Profit would come from ticket sales and refreshment stalls with takings based on selling 800 seats a show.

Dudley Hippodrome was built 1938 and was used as a theatre until 1964, when it became a bingo hall. The building has been unused since 2009.

Keith Jeffries, Deb Brownlee and Martin Horwood with some of the items for sale

Swimming for toddlers

PARENTS and toddlers can make waves with new swimming courses being launched at Crystal Leisure Centre in Stourbridge.

Classes to introduce children aged six months to four years to the water take place over the course of 11 weeks, sessions are led by a qualified instructor and run until Easter. Classes do not run during the February half term.

For more information call the centre on (01384) 812800.



Keith Jeffries, Deb Brownlee and Martin Horwood with some of the items for sale

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Peaky beer helps brewery expand

A BLACK Country brewery is to offer a new special draught beer each month during 2015 after moving production to a new site.

Sadler's Brewery had a successful 2014 helped by big sales of its Peaky Blinder brew, which was inspired by the BBC television series Peaky Blinders.

The opening of a new brewery at Conyers Trading Estate, Station Drive, Lye, will enable it to increase output.

Brewing was originally carried out at its site next to the Windsor Castle Inn in Stourbridge Road, Lye.

More players try out tennis club

A TENNIS club invited dozens of new players at three welcome events.

Wollaston Tennis Club held the events, including one which took place on New Year's Day.

Chairman John Cutler said "Mix in sessions are very much at the heart of Wollaston Tennis Club. They are designed so that people can just turn up and play doubles tennis with different people. It was wonderful to see so many people come along to play in these events."

New laughter yoga sessions to start

NEW sessions of laughter yoga will begin next week in Wordsley.

Maggie Thompson will hold the sessions from 7-8pm on Monday, January 12 at Wordsley Community Centre, The Green.

They aim to give people the opportunity to let go of their inhibitions and laugh together with deep breathing exercises in a group.

For details call 07565 218567.

Socks and chocs given to homeless

A CHURCH donated hundreds of pairs of socks to the homeless as part of an annual appeal.

Our Lady and All Saints church in Stourbridge also gave 381 pieces of chocolate to the needy as part of its Socks and Chocs initiative.

Sleep bags were also given out at soup kitchens over the festive period.

Puppy is rescued

A PUPPY stuck between a fence and a conservatory in Dudley was cut free by a fire crew. They created a gap in the fence at a property in Warrens Hall Road to release the distressed animal on Friday evening.

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



THE festive specials of *Celebrity Mastermind* (BBC1) were a timely reminder that a) you can be a celebrity without anybody knowing who you are, and b) celebrities can get on *Mastermind* without knowing much about anything.

JIM Naughtie on *Today* (Radio 4) takes this winter's prize for being the first to warn us of "feezing frog."

LEAVING aside any concerns about Whitehall's latest plan to turn women into trench-fighting soldiers, aren't you a wee bit depressed at headlines such as "Female troops on the front line by 2016"? I hope by 2016 we won't have any front lines.

HIGHLIGHT of the festive viewing for me was yet another repeat of *The Muppet Christmas Carol*. When the film was released in 1992 the cast came to Birmingham on a promotional trip and I got to chat in a hotel bedroom with Miss Piggy, Kermit and the Great Gonzo. Best interview ever.

OUR changing language. Or to be more accurate, the Yanks' changing language. The US news channel CNN carries an online report about the Nigerian families whose girls were kidnapped by Boko Haram terrorists. It is headlined: "Holidays Without Our Missing Girls." The distraught mother of one girl said: "It is a bad Christmas." The father said: "Every Christmas, we used to be complete and happy." The whole essence of this story was about loss at Christmas. No-one said a word about "holidays." But in the United States the word Christmas is deemed to be non-inclusive and politically incorrect. So they insert the word "holidays" instead, even when the result is gibberish.



FAT, flabby, wheezing, unhealthy. It is hard to move through the sales crowds without concluding that we Brits are a grossly unfit bunch. So when the Defence Secretary Michael Fallon (who has never served a day in uniform) declares: "Our armed forces should reflect the society they serve," he is spouting dangerous nonsense. Our armed forces should be the toughest, strongest, brightest young men and women

we can possibly recruit. We want Her Majesty's finest, not the Queen's Own Lardasses.

IF, like me, you are suspicious of anything connecting you, or your money, to the internet, here's something new to worry about. We all know computer webcams can be switched on by a malicious virus without the owner's knowledge. A reader writes of his fears about a new generation of smart televisions with voice-command function. Once you agree to the terms and conditions, the software is installed and you can change your internet-connected TV to a new channel simply by asking for it, via a microphone within the set. My reader asks: "If the microphone is active, what else might be transmitted from one's living room or even bedroom? How long would it take a hacker to override any safeguards, or am I being paranoid?"

WHY does God allow innocent shoppers to be mown down and killed by a lorry in Glasgow? Within hours of the tragedy a reader who describes himself as a Christian emailed me: "Many people (non-Christians) find it difficult to accept that God does things His way which is not the way they would like. However, this has to be accepted and not doing so is in itself a sin." So that's all right, then. And if you don't think it's all right, you're a sinner. If you reckon the Islamic State is a tad extreme, you'd be amazed what some Brits believe.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Vandals daub graffiti on railcars

VANDALS targeted the popular Stourbridge Shuttle by daubing graffiti over the railcars.

Operators are counting the cost of getting it fully removed.

Staff discovered a break-in at the Stourbridge Junction depot and found the two vehicles had been scrawled in graffiti.

Some travellers were forced to use replacement taxis as police were called and windscreens cleaned.

The service was soon up and running as normal but not before full repair work was carried out.

The attack is believed to have happened some time between 11.45pm on Christmas Eve and 4.30am on Saturday, December 27.

PreMetro Operations Ltd runs the service in partnership with London Midland. Operations director Steve Jasper said: "At some stage someone has broken into our

depot and did what they did. We are gutted."

Chief Executive Phil Evans added: "To say we are upset and annoyed is an understatement.

"Hopefully, the Police investigation will lead to those responsible being caught and prosecuted."

Anyone with information can call British Transport Police on 0800 405040 or text 61016. Or, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Graffiti is scrawled on a railcar

Armed robbers in raid on station

MASKED thieves armed with crowbars and a sledgehammer targeted a Coseley petrol station, stealing cigarettes, alcohol, and cash tills, police have revealed.

They burst into the BP garage in Birmingham New Road before escaping in a green Volkswagen Golf.

The car's registration plates had been covered up in a bid to make it more difficult for police to trace the vehicle.

Police have revealed details of the raid, which took place at 3.40am on December 20 as part of an appeal for witnesses.

Plastic

PC Chris Dixon said: "The escape vehicle had its registration plates covered up with plastic, so it may be that people noticed this car in the area."

"If you saw anything or knows anything that could help us to catch these offenders please call us."

The station in Coseley is the latest in the Black Country to be hit.

In November a gang armed with axes and sledgehammers targeted the Kings service station on Wolverhampton Road, Sedgley.

Call police on 101, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

New Year honours for unsung heroes

COMMUNITY stalwarts, charity volunteers, athletes and lawyers are among those to have been honoured in the New Year Honours List.

Unsung heroes from across the Black Country are celebrating after been recognised with the prestigious accolades.

Long-serving volunteers are among those to have been honoured for their work, with Norris Hill, of Coseley, receiving an MBE for his work with the Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd Ministry.

Mr Hill has been involved with the group from the very beginning, and was recognised by the organisation about 15 years ago when he was made a Companion of the Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd, one of only 30 people internationally to receive the honour.

The 78-year-old, who had a heart attack last year and has had to reduce his workload, also volunteers with Active Heart, the cardiac rehabilitation programme.

Mr Hill said he was 'absolutely gobsmacked' by the honour and added: "When I opened a letter from 10 Downing Street to say they had awarded me an MBE for the work I did, I didn't do it for any rewards, it was absolutely out of the blue."

Framework

Also receiving an OBE is former West Bromwich Albion player Brendon Batson – one of the so-called 'Three Degrees' – for services to football.

Jatinder Kumar Sharma, the principal of Wallall College – the first general further education college to receive an Outstanding from Ofsted under the new inspection framework – has been awarded the OBE for services to Further Education.

MBEs have been awarded to Gordon Stuart Guild, aged 76, for his voluntary political service; Oldswinford's Chris Fonteyn, aged 64, for services to the community in Stourbridge, including his work with the RNLI and the National Trust; and Alan James Harvey, of Dudley, for political service.

Waqa Ahmed, from Dudley, was also awarded an MBE for his services to challenging extremism and empowering communities in his role as prevent manager at Birmingham City Council.

His work involves tackling extremism across the spectrum, which includes Muslim extremism and right wing extremism.

He is employed by the Home Office to conduct this work.

He said: "I am very humbled to receive this honour which I see as recognition of the collective contribution by all those who work



Norris Hill, of Coseley, awarded an MBE



Jessica Gripton – British Empire Medal



Chris Westwood, aged 66, receives the MBE in the New Year's Honours List

tirelessly every day in trying to make our communities safer in Birmingham and across the West Midlands, often through very difficult and challenging circumstances."

Chris Westwood, 66, has also received an MBE. He set up The Chris Westwood Charity to help children in the Black Country with physical disabilities, after being appalled by the costs racked up by existing charities and the money taken from donations. Since 2003 it has provided more than £250,000 to help underprivileged families purchase mobility equipment.

Jessica Gripton, aged 83, who carried the Olympic torch through West Bromwich in 2012, receives the British Empire Medal for Services to sport. Mrs Gripton, secretary at Old Hill Tennis Club after more than 30 years of organising matches, has dedicated her spare hours to encouraging young people to take up the sport and also played a key role in the campaign to rebuild its clubhouse after it burned down in 2000.

The medal has also been awarded to John Harvey Deane, for services to the community in Dudley.

The Stourbridge Line User Group wants the section of railway accessible from the town's train stations to be extended south of Worcester. Members are frustrated that people travelling to the south west must get trains from Birmingham.

Group Spokesman Bob Randler said: "Many of our trains only go as far as Worcester. Some should be extended to Cheltenham and Gloucester."

Bus service saved

A BUS service from Stourbridge to Bridgnorth has been saved after a takeover. Central Buses will run the former Whittles 125 service, which stops at Kidderminster and Bewdley. An extra hourly service between Kidderminster and Stourbridge will also be launched.

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MP backs campaign for young donors

AN MP is backing call to step up a campaign for more young people to register as bone marrow donors.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin is supporting the Anthony Nolan charity which is offering to pay the Government to package information on registering as a donor with the National Insurance card, which is sent to everyone just before their 16th birthday.

Younger people are most likely to be chosen by doctors to donate bone marrow to someone with blood cancer, but only four per cent of registered donors are currently aged between 16 and 20.

Revenue

Mr Austin has written to Lin Homer, the chief executive of HM Revenue and Customs, urging her to support the proposals.

He said: "This is a simple step the Government can take to boost the number of young people signed up as life-saving bone marrow donors."

"There's no reason why bureaucracy should get in the way of this plan when charities are willing to cover any extra costs, so I've written to the Government urging them to take part."

Cemetery to open shortly

COUNCIL bosses say a new £200,000 cemetery in Dudley will be open for funerals by February.

Hundreds of plots are being created off Clee Road, opposite the current Dudley Cemetery. It aims to tackle the shortage of burial space in the borough and will have enough space to last more than 20 years.

It will include 1,000 adult plots, 140 smaller plots, space for 150 cremations and will be able to cater for all religious needs. Councillors are now in the final stages of a £200,000 landscaping project.

Police meeting

RESIDENTS can air their views at a police meeting later this month.

A forum for the Stourbridge area will take place at St James Church Hall, Belfry Drive, Wollaston.

The meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, January 28, at 7pm.

Toy shop to trade on under new owners

THE owner of a long-established Dudley toy store has announced a new buyer has come forward to save the business.

Alan Caswell is leaving the Arcade Toy Shop he has run for nearly 40 years to retire in March.

It comes as work to revamp the Fountain Arcade where the shop is based continues. Mr Caswell decided to step down after being concerned the work would cause too much upheaval at his shop.

Many customers who have grown up with the shop were saddened to hear it may be going for good.

But Mr Caswell has revealed that he has a buyer who wants to take over the toy shop.

A family will take the reins in March but Mr Caswell says he will stay around to support them.

Family

"A new family is coming in and the toy shop will go forward," said Mr Caswell, who started work at the shop 50 years ago with Saturday shifts.

"I have already got an idea of the view we will have from this shop over Stone Street Square when the original windows are put

back in again in the New Year, it will be fabulous. The windows were bricked up in 1971 by a previous arcade landlord and I can't wait to see them opened up again so we can enjoy that great view over Stone Street Square towards the museum."

The arcade is home to independent traders including a bakers, a butcher, florist, card shop, cafe, jewellery shop, men's outfitters, a sweet shop and ladies hair accessories shop.

Dudley Council's Townscape Heritage has worked with the traders to help renovate the locally listed Art Deco building,

which stretches from Tower Street to the market place and dates from 1925.

Work is being carried out with grant assistance through the Dudley Townscape Heritage Initiative, supported by funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Dudley Council, English Heritage and the Housing and Communities Agency.

The project includes repairs to windows and stonework, as well as reinstating lost architectural features, such as opening up the blocked windows, reinstating stone details to the pediment on the gable and installing new shop fronts.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Officers support housing scheme

PLANS for homes on the site of a former social club have been recommended for approval.

Sixteen homes are proposed for the site of the Woodside Liberal Club, on Stourbridge Road, if planning permission is granted by Dudley Council.

Officers have supported the scheme, saying it is a suitable development for the site. A decision will be made by councillors at Dudley Council's planning committee on Monday.

Netherton councillor Will Duckworth said he would be pleased to see the site redeveloped.

DIY store was closed 'for repairs'

A DIY store which closed without warning for four days has reopened.

B&Q said its Halesowen store was closed for safety reasons while maintenance work was carried out. There has been claims gas could be smelled near the site.

B&Q said its Mucklow Hill site had been closed while 'upgrades and repair work' were carried out. National Grid confirmed it had been called to the premises but no evidence of a gas leak was found.

Muslims march in celebration

MORE than 1,000 people joined a parade through the streets of Dudley as Muslims came together to celebrate the birth of the prophet Muhammad.

They met at Dudley Central Mosque for the event on Sunday lunchtime as flag and banner waving families and friends set off from the mosque, on Castle Hill, before returning to the mosque for the Milad-un-Nabi celebrations.

Homes will be built on former care site

TWENTY two homes will be built on the site of a former care home in Stourbridge.

Eight houses and 14 apartments for adults with learning disabilities will be built on the site of Ambrose House.

Bromford Developments Limited has been granted permission for the scheme by Dudley Council.

Playgroup praise

A PLAYGROUP meets at a Dudley church has been praised following an Ofsted inspection. Standards at Kingswinford Methodist Church, in Stream Road, were rated as outstanding.

Let's face it, it's time to restore clock



Martin Fisher with the clock which used to be at Cradley Heath Bus Station and is being restored

IT stood at the heart of a busy transport interchange for decades and was seen by hundreds of commuters daily.

Centro as to whether they would like to take instrument which dates back to the 1980s.

seen that, in the context of catching the bus and seeing that clock.

"It is the whole essence of the transport museum, it is not just the vehicles. It is all the things associated with these vehicles."

Walsall councillor Richard Worrall, a member of Centro, approached the museum to see if they wanted to take the clock.

He said: "I was asked if I knew anyone, and I thought that is a great place to relocate it."

Now the Cradley Heath clock is to be restored and preserved by volunteers at a museum in the Black Country.

The four-faced clock is more than 16 ft tall but has had to move to make way for the £1.9 million overhaul of the bus station.

Aston Manor Road Transport Museum in Aldridge was approached by

Keen volunteers will now set about repairing one of the damaged clock faces and look to put it up outside their base in Shenstone Drive or modify it for inside.

Chairman Martin Fisher said:

"They didn't want it to be just chucked away and so it was offered to us and we accepted.

"There are lots of people that have

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their service.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.'

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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IN MY VIEW**with Mark Andrews**

KEANE flips! So screamed the headline of one national tabloid after it emerged that the fiery former Republic of Ireland star had sought a confrontation with Villa on-loan midfielder Tom Cleverley at his home.

Apparently, Keano – to those not familiar with The Beautiful Game, he is the one with the beard like Saddam Hussein while he was on the run – thought Cleverley was behind newspaper stories about training-ground bust-ups during his short-lived spell as Villa's assistant manager.

So how did Keane flip exactly? Did he:

(a) Grab Cleverley in a headlock, lift him over his shoulder, and then slam dunk him on top of his water feature?

(b) Confront him in his kitchen, slap him about a bit with a fresh kipper, before continuing the fight outside, culminating in a spot of grappling in the swimming pool?

(c) Ring his doorbell 'very aggressively' and wait outside, before deciding Cleverley was not at home and driving off.

The answer, by the way is (c). Not exactly Keith Moon, is he?



A judge has granted an injunction to stop boy racers wreaking mayhem on the streets of the Black Country and surrounding areas, saying there appeared to be 'complete lawlessness' around the problem. The move follows a similar injunction which was granted in 2012.

It is hardly a new problem. I remember it first rearing its head around 15 years ago, when hundreds, if not thousands, of the blighters used to meet up around the Merry Hill centre and neighbouring industrial estates every Thursday nights.

During the research for one story about this, I even had to buy a copy of a boy racer magazine which had allegedly been encouraging these meets.

Boy, that took some front. I sat for around five minutes outside the newsagents in my totally conventional and unmodified car, trying to work out a strategy for buying this dubious publication without feeling too embarrassed. I dunno, maybe buying a few 'adult' magazines to hide it in or something.

Anyway, the magazine did cast a rather fascinating light into this bizarre sub-culture. For example, it came with a free CD featuring timeless tracks such as 'Big Up Your Splitter' or 'Time To Get Ill'. Like you hear in the background at all the best dinner parties.

Strangest of all was the fact that many of the people who attended these meetings were not from the vicinity at all.

Some of them would diligently drive their garish-looking vehicles all the way from places like Brighton or Leeds just to experience the delights of a Thursday night at a KFC car park in Brierley Hill.



Sarah Redding with Pierre, a hissing cockroach



Gemma Warboys with Ronnie the tapir at the zoo



Monkey business – baboons are counted up at the zoo

WEEK IN POLITICS**with Daniel Wainwright**

THEY'RE coming to a street near you. It's election year and pretty soon MPs, candidates, activists and hangers-on are going to canvas you.

It sounds a bit sinister, like some form of guerilla art. But for some reason it just seems like the right thing for any aspiring politician to do – to connect with the electorate.

It all seems a bit unfair to me because they'll descend with no prior notice or appointment and might well interrupt dinner or at a crucial moment in the Breaking Bad box set.

Even so, if they do come along, use this chance to grill them because it's been half a decade since we had a General Election and it's about time they were properly put on the spot by the people they serve.

I'm looking forward to May because after that we'll hopefully have a Government that's actually getting on with the business of governing, rather than just going through the motions for the next few months while parties try to curry favour with an ever-more-weary electorate.

Parliament has run out of things to do. This is because of a little thing known as the Fixed Term Parliament Act, which effectively sets the date for a General Election at exactly five years since the last one.

In order to create a 'strong and stable' coalition with the Liberal Democrats, David Cameron dispensed with the Prime Minister's right to decide when the time was right to go to the country.

But the Tories and Lib Dems have exhausted the things they can agree on and are now trying to distance themselves from each other.

The Lib Dems are effectively finished around these parts. In the May 2014 council elections the party found candidates to stand in a mere 27 per cent of wards.

Even in Cannock Chase, where the party was the largest group four years before, they found just six candidates for 13 seats.

David Cameron likes to refer to this as the most important election in a generation. He may have a point.

What we're dealing with here is a re-hash of 2010 when the country delivered a hung Parliament. Back then it was compared with the election of 1974. But with the uncertainty that created, Harold Wilson went back to the country again before the year was out and was rewarded with a majority of three. The Fixed Term Parliament Act stops that.

We get one shot at saying who we want as our MP for the next half a decade. Before that, it's up to them to bombard us with leaflets, promises and scare tactics.

But that moment in the polling station is all you have until May 2020 unless MPs vote to dissolve Parliament. That's why this election is so important.

Zoo tapir tally and cockroach count

Like the Biblical Noah's Ark the animals of Dudley Zoo are all counted in for the attraction's annual census

"HAS everyone got a calculator and clipboard? Then let the counting begin."

Those were the final instructions issued to the keepers at Dudley Zoo who have been preparing for a week like no other.

Workers are being kept busy, carrying out the mammoth task of counting each of the animals as part of the annual census.

There are more than 1,800 creatures at the 40-acre site and now every invertebrate, bird, mammal, amphibian and reptile is being totted up. From the most minuscule ants to the tallest giraffe – it will all be documented.

The zoo is obliged to keep an official tally of its animals every 12 months as part of its licensing requirements, with the census taking five days to complete.

Rather than it being the case of hoping the all the animals keep still long enough to be counted, the task is thankfully made a little easier for most of the zookeepers.

Microchipped

Many of the animals, including Madagascan lemurs and a red-necked wallaby, are microchipped, like domestic cats and dogs, and can be individually scanned with a hand held scanner. Others, like the reindeer and Barbary sheep have ear tags while birds have flipper bands or coloured foot rings which contain individual codes, making them fairly easy to count up.

Bigger animals such as the Sumatran tigers and giraffes are easily identifiable by their unique patterns and coats and can be totted up in a matter on minutes – a change in number of such large ani-



One of the zoo's workers getting a head count on the site's flock of flamingoes

mals is not something that would go unnoticed.

Those responsible for larger animals have it easier than their colleagues in charge of insects, spiders and other tiny critters.

The stick insect's party trick of blending into its surroundings isn't appreciated by the keepers at this time of the year.

There were around 120 stick insects at the attraction at the last count, though separating the wood from the trees can be tricky. They can also breed continually, meaning the total can fluctuate from one day to the next.

The zoo's chief executive Peter Suddock said: "It always poses a few problems when it comes to stick insects as not only do they move around as staff are attempting to count them, but they

also have a camouflage habit of clinging to keepers' clothing usually just out of reach on backs and shoulders."

Penguins can be tricky too, he added.

"Dudley Zoo is home to the UK's largest colony of parent-reared Humboldt penguins and with 66 constantly moving birds sharing the pool and beach, the annual headcount can take time."

Dudley Zoo's numbers have been boosted by a host of new arrivals that are being counted for the first time.

They include 11-month-old male Rothschild's giraffe Kito and eight-month-old Carpathian lynx triplets Dick, Dom and Daphne. Malaku the snow leopard was born in April to the delight of zoo staff.

Mum and dad Nanga and Margaash's first cub had died suddenly less than 12 months earlier. Gelada baboons Billie

and Ambo also swung into the zoo, while Boo the chinchilla was another new arrival.

But while the many births were greeted with much cheer, there was also sadness with the deaths of two of the zoo's heavyweights.

Favourite

Census veteran Orry the Patagonian sealion, a favourite with visitors, passed away in July at the age of 22.

The zoo also lost male Asiatic lion Mwamba, only a year after being brought in from Devon.

All zoos and wildlife parks in Britain are required to carry out the yearly census. The data is used for zoo management and international breeding programmes for endangered animals.

It also provides a back up for the site's Zoological Information Management.

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Nature is raw-fanged and red-toothed

I have long believed Peter Rhodes to be somebody posturing as being attuned to rural life, labelling his cottage, or whatever it maybe, as 'Chateau Rhodes'.

He makes comment in a recent column that David Cameron wants to make foxhunting with hounds legal again and opines that it would be political suicide.

I have no idea of the political leanings of ordinary folk or landowners in

rural areas, no more than Rhodes probably does. But I think the majority are pretty well in accord in trying to get the present foxhunting ban repealed.

Regardless as to whether a fox is a farm labourer or a farmer, the loss of a chicken in the back garden or the slaughter of lambs in a field by a fox has an impact. The fox is vermin, not a lovable rogue as people like Rhodes would possibly have you believe. A fox will randomly kill not only for food but for the enjoyment of slaughter.

Whatever Rhodes might believe in his sanitised world of state-of-the-art

wood burning stove, most of those who work the land would concur that hunting with hounds is a far more efficient way of keeping the fox population down than shooting them.

Do-gooders should get real, wildlife is raw-fanged and red-toothed.

Let those who manage our wildlife and countryside adopt the best methods of controlling wildlife that is less than eco-friendly.

And Rhodes, chuck your green wellys in the bin.

J B WALDRON
DUDLEY

Petition in bid to open rail route

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Touching memory of a choral tribute

OF the hundreds of concerts I have been part of, as a chorister with the Gentlemen Songsters for almost 40 years, there are two which stand out most in my memory.

One was singing in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen for the opening of the NIA Centre, Birmingham, and the other was during a visit to the war graves at Normandy and Arnhem.

The choir's oldest singing member is 90-years-old second tenor Albert Evans. Albert was only 18 years when he served in the Army and became friends with a fellow soldier who was a few years older. Albert looked up to him and they became mates. Sadly Albert saw his friend be killed at Arnhem.

With the help of then choir chairman Tony Partridge they found Albert's friend's grave. Albert wasn't alone shedding his tears standing at the foot of the grave saluting his comrade. He had the choir sharing his grief. Before leaving that day the choir sang Morte Christe. I then heard a voice call out loud and clear: 'thank you gentlemen'. Could it, I wonder, have been the voice of God?

J GRAINGER
STOURBRIDGE

P COLE
KINGSWINFOR

Dark nights and dim road users

I will be glad when the days draw out and we get light nights again. I am fed up with seeing cars with defective lights and people walking about in dark clothing.

I was driving along Priory Road in the direction of Wolverhampton. Just as I breached the rise by the new estate, a car coming towards me pulled onto the bay near to the shops on my left. This person had his headlights on full beam, which dazzled me as a car driving on its correct side came the other way with only a nearside headlight on. This gave the possible impression of a motorcycle. Two offences in one incident, parking on the wrong side of the road and defective headlights.

My wife was driving at Bromley when a youngster on a cycle, wearing dark clothing and with no lights, rode between us and on-coming traffic.

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21st BBC TOUR AT MEDIA CITY, Salford	£35.00	£32.50
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30th - 3rd APR NORTH DEVON DELIGHTS

17th BLETCLEY PARK

30th - 3rd APR TENBY & SCENIC PEMBROKESHIRE

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10th - 12th "CALL THE MIDWIFE"

22nd THE VIEW FROM THE SHARD

13th - 17th EASTBOURNE & SOUTH DOWNS

24th CARDIFF SHOPPING & SIGHTSEEING

13th - 17th ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT

26th TATE MODERN ART GALLERY LONDON

17th - 19th OSTEND WEEKEND & BRUGGE

28th HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

18th - 19th IWM DUXFORD & BLETCLEY PARK

1st ELVIS EXHIBITION AT THE O2

18th - 19th GREAT ENGLISH GARDENS & PALACES

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19th ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY FACTORY

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The Haden triplets and the Williams and Oakley Twins sitting on a wall



Street party in Stickley Lane for the Coronation in 1953



Archie Williams with blind coalman Ebenezer Turner, leaning on the van



Cliff Richard visits Robert Street School, Lower Gornal



The 1955 Carnival Queen, Wendy Smith, with her attendants

Local author Ned is grabbed by Gornals

NED Williams first ventured into The Gornals, to watch The Beatles' Help! at the Alexandra Cinema almost 50 years ago.

He had no inkling then that years later he would be publishing a book about the area.

The trip, in 1965 introduced the now 70-year-old author to Upper Gornal, Lower Gornal and Gornal Wood – where "Furriners" from outside the villages were looked at with confusion and nobody ever had any reason to leave.

Mr Williams has written 50 books about the Black Country, covering everything from local railways to cinemas, theatres and chapels.

His latest turns a spotlight on the three villages – known locally as The Gornals – and their people, places and history.

The father-of-two, who has lived in Wolverhampton since 1974, said: "It's an area that hasn't been properly covered yet."

MEMORY LANE

Report by Matt Growcott

"Other books tend to write about the larger towns."

"I have been trudging the streets stopping people and asking for stories and photographs. It is backed up with research."

"It's always great when you can find pictures in the past that relate to people and places that are still around to see. There are lots of characters."

Take, for instance, the mystery of William Jones. According to the book, during the early 1900s, Jones sold lamp oil, drapery and bedding from his shop in Lake Street, Lower Gornal. He had his own branded horse and cart and claimed to trade in places as far reaching as London.

In 1904, at only 34, Jones vanished, never to be seen again. His wife, Jane, continued to run the business, before selling it six years after her husband's disappearance.

Today the building is used as a hotel and is owned by the church.

Throughout its history, a number of successful businesses have been built across The Gornals. It's part of the reason why these villages became so isolated, and why so many of the older generation spent their entire lives rarely stepping out of its borders.

So isolated were these villages that a couple from different parts of the Gornals is jokingly referred to as a mixed marriage.

Upper Gornal's Spring Farm Dairy had a fleet of vans and a strong force of milkmen delivering, according to the slogan embossed on their bottles, "pure, rich, safe milk." Edward Pyatt owned the dairy, as well as garage, a shop and a farm. He had started out as a miner, but dreamed of a life farming animals.

The Gornals has been published by Uralia Press and costs £13.50. It is available from Bywater News, in Upper Gornal, Waterstones, WH Smith or call Mr Williams on 01902 773376.



Miriam Marson, nee Pyatt, outside Edward Pyatt's shop

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Jail for eight cousins in car parts export racket

EIGHT men from the Black Country – including two from Dudley – are behind bars after cars across the Midlands were stolen to order, dismantled and the parts shipped to the Middle East.

The gang, all cousins, was sentenced for a conspiracy to steal 4x4 Toyota and Vauxhalls, which they would scour the streets of the Midlands for on demand.

The men appeared at Worcester Crown Court after pleading guilty to conspiring to steal motor vehicles and were jailed for a total of 28 years and nine months.

The court heard there were 81 thefts and attempted thefts throughout Staffordshire, West Midlands, Warwickshire, West Mercia, Derbyshire and Leicestershire between March 2012 and April 2013.

Targeted

Predominantly Toyota Hilux, Toyota Hiace, Toyota Landcruiser and Vauxhall Brava vehicles were targeted.

They were taken from properties across Warwickshire in Rugby, Tamworth, Athertonstone and Kineton, as well as throughout West Mercia in Bromsgrove, Worcester, Kidderminster, Market Drayton, Bridgnorth and Telford.

The stolen vehicles were dismantled with the engines and gear boxes being exported to the United Arab Emirates, while the remainder of the chassis and shells were weighed in at scrap yards.

The gang had found out that the parts, in particular those from Toyota 2L engines, were in high demand in the Middle East so they set up a rapidly-expanding operation.



Rocky Butler, aged 35, from Dudley



Richard Edwards, of Brierley Hill

A ninth man Yawar Jaffari, 42, from London, had links to the United Arab Emirates and acted as the go-between. He would take orders from contacts abroad and pass them on to his accomplices in the Black Country, who then stole whatever had been requested.

The vehicles were taken to the Cannock Wood Industrial Estate in Cannock Wood Street, where the men worked from three units.

They started out at a site in Torton Paddock, Kidderminster, owned by Rocky Butler, of Fullwood Crescent, Dudley, but needed to move to bigger premises as demand rocketed.

All eight men had grown up together in Blakenall, Walsall. Once they got involved with Jaffari, they began stealing the cars and within weeks had a regular export line running.

Detective Constable Karl High, of West Mercia Police, said: "This was a lengthy investigation. This sentencing should serve as a warning that vehicle crime will not be tolerated."

Leslie Taylor, 33, of Rosewood Court, Bilston, was jailed for four years; Butler, 35, got five years and four months; James Bailey, 36, of Edison Road, Walsall was sentenced to five years and four months; Richard Edwards, 29, of Chapel Street, Brierley Hill to two years.

James Taylor, 26, of Harden Close, Walsall was jailed for two years and eight months; Terence Gould, 46, of Botany Road, Walsall, for two years; Colin Brookes, 30, of Hunter Crescent, Walsall was sentenced to two years and Paul Kendall, 42, of Irvine Road, Walsall to a year and four months.

Luke Moore, 26, of Leyes Crescent, Brierley Hill and Gary Winter, 31, of Goscole Place, Walsall, were previously convicted and sentenced.

Moore received a suspended sentence and Winter was jailed for 16 weeks. Jaffari, 42, of Carlton Road, London, got three years and nine months.

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*Offer available at time of quotation only



Art made in the eye of a needle is going on display

TINY pieces of art which sit in the eyes of needles or on top of pineheads are to go on display in Birmingham.

The sculptures, created by Willard Wigan, who grew up in Wednesfield, are so minute they are only visible through a microscope.

Now Willard Wigan's tiny pieces of art, which are crafted between heartbeats so as to minimise hand tremors, are set to go on display for two weeks.

The renowned micro-sculptor is launching the exhibition at the Library of Birmingham on Sunday, with part of the proceeds earmarked to support community programmes.

Mr Wigan, aged 57, first became interested in micro-sculpture at the age of five when he began making houses for ants because he thought they needed somewhere to live. Since then, the self-taught artist has per-

fected his craft, with owners of his works now including HRH Prince Charles, Sir Elton John, Sir Philip Green, Lord Bath, Mike Tyson and Simon Cowell.

His most recent piece, the Coronation Crown, was requested by HRH Queen Elizabeth II as part of her Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

Mr Wigan received an MBE for services to art in 2007, said: "As a child, I escaped into a fantasy world."

"Now local children have the Library of Birmingham on their doorstep, with free access to millions of stories to fuel their imaginations."

Tickets for the Through the Eye of a Needle exhibition can be booked at www.birmingham-box.co.uk or on 0121 2454455.

To see the more of his amazing micro artwork visit the willard-wigan.com.



The micro-sculpture of Cinderella that is to go on show in Birmingham

Drink-drive purge sees 164 arrested

MORE than 160 people have been arrested for drink-driving as part of the Christmas campaign.

West Midlands Police kicked off its festive drink and drug driving campaign on December 1, with 164 men and women pulled over and arrested in about four weeks.

As part of this year's campaign every person charged with drink or drug driving is named on the force website for a week, in a bid to raise awareness and make drivers stop and think before possibly breaking the law, and remind them that a conviction can carry a prison sentence between three months and 14 years.

It has seen more than 90 people charged to appear before the courts, accused of drink driving or failing to provide a sample for analysis.

The force said last year the web page was viewed more than 41,600 times.

Inspector Greg Jennings, who is leading the West Midlands annual road safety campaign, said: "We have decided to again name everyone who has been charged with drink or drug driving offences in a bid to make people think twice before acting recklessly."

Programme helps turn round lives of families

THE lives of almost 4,000 troubled families in the Black Country and Staffordshire have been turned around, according to new figures.

The Government's Troubled Families programme, introduced in 2012 identified tens of thousands of households across the country which needed help. Of 4,850 in the Black Country and Staffordshire defined as 'troubled', 3,914 have received help as a result of the scheme.

Troubled families could mean youngsters causing anti-social behaviour, or who truant regularly, or who have an adult on out-of-work benefits.

The scheme also helps get children back into school, adults into work and turns people away from crime.

Communities Secretary Eric Pickles said the changes would mean more economic stability across the country.

Security

In total 85,303 families have benefitted from the scheme - 99 per cent of those identified two and a half years ago.

Mr Pickles said: "The Troubled Families programme demonstrates exactly what our long-term economic plan means for people, new opportunities for families to turn their lives around and make something of themselves. More economic security for local communities blighted by worklessness and more economic stability for taxpayers, as we reduce the bills for social failure and

get this country living within its means."

Staffordshire has the most 'turned around' families with 1,179 of its 1,390, while Wolverhampton has turned around 617 of 810.

Chief Secretary to the Treasury Danny Alexander added: "I am proud that this programme is delivering real results, having helped turn around the lives of families by putting children back into school, cutting anti-social behaviour, and moving adults into work."

"It's great news that more than 85,000 troubled families in England have seen real, tangible improvements in their lives thanks to this programme, and that 99 per cent of eligible families are being actively worked with."

Head of the Troubled Families programme Louise Casey added: "To have turned around the lives of over 85,000 troubled families - who have an average of nine serious problems each - in two and a half years is a credit to the councils, the frontline staff and most of all to the families themselves."

Deprived areas get slice of £12m boost

FOUR boroughs hit with high unemployment have been awarded a slice of a £12.8 million grant to help residents find jobs.

Social housing estates in struggling wards in Dudley, as well as in Walsall, Sandwell and Wolverhampton are to benefit from the cash that has come from the Government's City Deal initiative.

It was launched to improve the job prospects of residents in deprived wards. The money will be used to help thousands of young unemployed and disadvantaged families living on council estates to improve their skills.

A total of £2.8m will be spent through schemes to be set up in Darlaston South and Bilston East, in Wolverhampton as well as in Princes End, Sandwell and Kates Hill, Dudley.

Bosses at West Bromwich based social housing landlord Accord Group successfully submitted a bid for the funding for the five-year Working Together programme.

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Homes on way at Guest site

PLANS to transform part of the site of a Victorian hospital in Dudley into a development of more than 200 homes have hit further delays, with work now not expected to start until the end of 2015.

Dudley Guest Hospital, in Tipton Road in Dudley, was put in the hands of the Home and Communities Agency (HCA) for a major residential development seven years ago, when most of its NHS services ended.

Wates Living Space was appointed developer for the £30 million project four years ago but mine shafts and limestone workings have caused delays for the scheme.

The HCA had hoped a planning application would be submitted to Dudley Council last year, but now expect one to be lodged this summer.

HAGLEY Parish Council has hit out after some of the cash it says it should have received because of development in the village was given to neighbouring parishes.

Hagley councillors are angry that money, which has been provided by developers building in the area, will now be split up between them and nearby Belbroughton and Clent.

The money, which is to come from Cala Homes and from Billingham and Kite, has been provided to help local services, such as medical practices and community centres, to grow to cater for new residents who will move into

the homes being built off Kidderminster Road and Western Road. The funding, which will be handed over by the developers once construction is complete, has already been allocated by Bromsgrove District Council.

Surgery

Hagley Parish Council Chairman Steve Colella said that although some residents of the new homes will use services in nearby Clent and Belbroughton, the overwhelming majority of residents will use Hagley Surgery, which he believes the funding should be sent.

The new homes could create an extra 800 to 900 patients for the GP surgery. Currently, the practice has 7,200 patients, at capacity with about 1,800 patients per doctor.

Councillor Colella said: "It is extremely urgent that the extension of the Hagley Surgery should be fully funded."

"The funding has been split with Belbroughton which has also sought to have the Glebeland Medical Centre enhanced despite being expected to only receive an extra 100 patients."

Councillor Colella said: "There is not enough money to go round. If Hagley Medical Centre is not extended, we believe Hagley healthcare will be severely compromised due to an excessive pressure on facilities."

Data from NHS England shows that approximately 92 per cent of patients in Hagley are registered with the Hagley Surgery, compared to just eight per cent at the Belbroughton Surgery.

Parents hit by holiday fines

MORE than 2,800 fines, totalling more than £171,000 have been dished out to parents for taking children out of school in term time in just over two years.

This school year 342 fines of £60 a time have been sent to people whose children took an 'unauthorised leave of absence' either to go on holiday or for another reason.

Council leaders are calling for a change in the law to restore the rights of headteachers to use their discretion on whether or not to grant a leave of absence.

Hard-pressed families are going away in term time because the costs of a holiday shoot up when schools are closed.

Figures released under the Freedom of Information Act showed there were 1,038 fines handed out in Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Staffordshire in 2012/13. The figure rose to 1,472 the following academic year.

Dudley fined 254 parents in 2013/14 and 226 in 2012/13.

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Art of popping up with app for display



With the app is gallery assistant Elizabeth Broadway

POP art has been teamed with popular technology as Wolverhampton Art Gallery embraces digital media.

The gallery has created the free Pop Europe! app, which acts as a pocket guide for the exhibition of the same name. Connie Wan, the exhibition's curator, said the gallery received a £64,000 grant from the Esmee Fairbairn Collections Fund to host the Pop Europe! exhibition, which included the development of a digital project.

Dr Wan said there were lots of things they had wanted the app to do, and choosing what to include had been the biggest challenge.

"We have never done anything like an app before so it was a good opportunity to experiment," she said. "We thought it was about time we caught up with digital technologies. We had six months to put it together."

Those who download the app and show it at the gallery can also get a free hot drink from the cafe.

Pop Europe! explores the Pop Art movement beyond America and Britain, and is on at the Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Lichfield Street, until February 7.

Concert venues set for a £10m revamp

NEW windows and doors are to be installed at Wolverhampton's Civic Halls ahead of a major revamp.

The Civic and Wulfrun, which are set to have £10 million spent on them, are among the leading music venues in the West Midlands.

Under plans submitted to Wolverhampton City Council, both halls would be fitted with new large and small windows, while the Wulfrun would be given a new entrance too. According to the plans, the single glazing windows at both halls are no longer suitable, with some becoming unstable during windy weather and concerts.

There has also been incidents where glass panes have fallen on to pavement outside the venues, while bosses say poor sound-proofing has led to complaints.

The Wulfrun Hall's main entrance doors, frames and lights would also be replaced for easier access in emergencies.

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

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The home improvement market is changing and the demand for more choice in colour and suitability of PVC-U doors and windows is growing. Fashionable additions such as orangeries are increasingly desirable, as more people look for ways to improve their home.

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Situated on Sedgley Road West in Tipton, the founder and company Managing Director Nathan Beddows started the business from scratch at the early age of 19 working out of the very same premises as he does today. He explains his passion:

"I cannot stress enough how much pride we take in every window, door, conservatory, orangery we manufacture and install."

With its roots in manufacturing, the business started more than 19 years ago, and right from the very start an emphasis has been placed on supplying only the finest and most energy-efficient products, but still remaining affordable.

"Our commitment extends beyond the manufacturing process to the design and installation of doors, windows, conservatories and other home improvement services," explains Nathan.

"For some customers we supply new windows and doors, for others we provide a complete home improvement service from building extensions and fitting kitchens, to designing and

installing conservatories and more recently Orangeries," says Nathan.

One tremendously satisfied customer is Rick Houghton. Having being recommended to Choices Windows by colleagues at work, he employed them to carry out extensive work at his home, he is keen to share his experiences and commend the team involved.

"Every stage of the process was excellently planned and we received nothing but the best service from start to finish. The tradesmen were outstanding and we were so impressed that we handed over our keys and went on holiday whilst the work was being carried out."

Rick and his family were absolutely thrilled and utterly delighted with the results on their return.

"We are so grateful to Nathan and his team for transforming our home into something we could only have dreamed of," remarks Rick.

Keen to keep ahead in the style stakes, Nathan is ever aware of the latest designs, materials and colours on offer, and strives to make these available to his customers.

"Many people are now opting for stylish coloured PVC-U, influenced by timeless muted 'National Trust' tones. Sage green, gun metal grey and cream are all becoming very fashionable alongside the traditional clean bright white," explains Nathan.

Fitting new PVC-U windows can be a good choice for the environment as well as for your home. Replacing dated double glazing can help save money on heating bills and reduce the carbon footprint of a residence.

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"After many years in the Double glazing business we have seen a lot of competitors come and go, unfortunately leaving many customers without any warranty, after parting with their hard earned cash. Any customer who is considering having any home improvements should choose carefully and do their homework on the company they are considering, ensure if you part with money upfront it is protected by a Fensa approved deposit indemnity scheme, ask to visit previous customers but most importantly don't be fooled by the salesmen's tactics of a tempting "sign on the night low price offer" that the double glazing industry is notorious for" advises Nathan.

The old sayings are always the best - after a low price is long forgotten, poor quality long remains".

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Classified Ads

Thousands turn out for traditional hunt



Crowds gather as participants set out on the Boxing Day Albrighton and Woodland hunt at Hagley Hall

MORE than a thousand people turned out for the annual Boxing Day Albrighton and Woodland Hunt in Dudley.

More than 60 riders took part in the 350-acre grounds of Hagley Park, near Stourbridge.

Hunt secretary Julian Hill said: "We usually hunt two to three times a week but the Boxing Day hunt is very special and it is always successful. We have lots of people come

along to stretch their legs and shake off Christmas." The Albrighton and Woodland Hunt covers parts of Worcestershire, Staffordshire, Shropshire and the West Midlands bordering Stourbridge, Dudley and Halesowen.

Despite a ban on fox hunting 10 years ago, hunts continue using 'trails', where hounds follow the scent of foxes without any foxes being harmed.

Tributes to police sergeant

A TOP Black Country police officer has died after battling cancer for nearly a year.

Steve Knight, aged 54, who grew up in Dudley, was a sergeant based at Wolverhampton's Bilston Street police station and had served with West Midlands Police for 23 years, originally as a PC in his

home town. He joined the force after spells as an engineer and salesman.

He leaves two adult children Kayleigh and Chris, as well as stepsons Jordan and Connor.

The Wolves fan, a regular at Molineux, was diagnosed with cancer in January last year.

He married his second wife Jackie in March 2013 but they had been in a relationship for

eight years. Paying tribute to his late husband, Mrs Knight, 47, said: "He was a loving family man and did everything for his family."

"He was gentle and loved his job and put all his effort into it. He brought me great happiness."

Hundreds of family, friends and colleagues attended his funeral at Streetly Crematorium.



Sgt Steve Knight

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Inters:	Mon. 12 Jan.	19.00-21.00.	10 wks.	£65.00#	
Advanced:	Thurs 15 Jan.	19.00-21.00.	10 wks.	£65.00#	
ITALIAN: BEGINNERS					
Mon 12 Jan.	12.00-14.00.	3 wks.	£27.00#		
ARABIC					
Mon 19 Jan.	17.00-18.30.	9 wks.	£47.25#		

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Wed 14 Jan.	09.30-11.30.	10 wks.	£65.00#		
Thurs 15 Jan.	10.00-12.00.	10 wks.	£65.00#		
Thurs 15 Jan.	13.30-15.30.	10 wks.	£65.00#		
WATERCOLOURS FOR BEGINNERS					
Mon 26 Jan.	14.30-16.30.	3 wks.	£27.00#		
WIRE WRAPPED JEWELLERY MAKING					
Mon 26 Jan.	19.00-21.00.	3 wks.	£27.00#		
or	Tues 3 Mar.	12.00-14.00.	3 wks.	£27.00#	
CONTINUING JEWELLERY MAKING					
Tues 27 Jan.	12.00-14.00	3 wks.	£27.00#		
Mon 23 Feb.	19.00-21.00.	3 wks.	£27.00#		
FOLK ART					
Tues 13 Jan.	14.30-16.30.	3 wks.	£27.00#		
or	Mon 23 Feb.	19.00-21.00	3 wks.	£27.00#	
CREATIVE WRITING					
Mon 12 Jan.	19.00-21.00.	5 wks.	£35.00#		
FACE PAINTING AND GLITTER TATTOOS					
Beginners:	Thurs 15 Jan.	19.00-21.00	6 wks	£41.00#	(£13.75)

HANDICRAFTS					
UPHOLSTERY suitable for all levels					
Mon 12 Jan.	19.00-21.00.	10 wks.	£68.00#		
Tues 13 Jan.	12.00-14.00.	10 wks.	£68.00#		
Wed 14 Jan.	12.00-14.00.	10 wks.	£68.00#		
PATCHWORK - Improvers					
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Wed 14 Jan.	14.30-16.30.	10 wks.	£68.00#		
PATCHWORK - Beginners					
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Beginners	Tues 3 Feb.	09.30-11.30.	3 wks.	£27.00#	
HOW TO USE AN OVERLOCKER					
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RAG RUG MAKING					
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CHANCE TO DANCE FIT—TASTER					
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CHANCE TO DANCE FIT					
Tues 20 Jan.	19.00-20.00	9 wks.	£31.50#		
Tues 20 Jan.	20.00-21.00	9 wks.	£31.50#		
BALLROOM & LATIN AMERICAN DANCING					
Beginners	Mon 12 Jan.	18.45-19.45	10 wks.	£36.60	
Improvers	Mon 12 Jan.	19.45-21.00	10 wks.	£54.90	

HEALTH AND FITNESS					
PILATES					
Beginners:	Thurs 15 Jan.	18.00-19.00.	10 wks.	£35.00#	
Beg.@ Oakfield: Fri 16 Jan.	10.00-11.00.	10 wks.	£37.80#		
Improvers:	Tues 13 Jan.	19.00-20.00.	9 wks.	£31.50	
Improvers:	Wed 14 Jan.	18.30-19.30.	10 wks.	£35.00	
Improvers:	Thurs 15 Jan.	19.05-20.05.	10 wks.	£35.00	
Improvers:	Thurs 15 Jan.	20.10-21.10.	10 wks.	£35.00	
FITNESS YOGA					
Tues 13 Jan.	20.05-21.05.	9 wks.	£31.50		
ADULT SWIMMING LESSONS:					
Beginners:	Mon. 12 Jan.	19.00-19.45.	10 wks.	£31.50#	
Improvers:	Mon. 12 Jan.	19.45-20.30.	10 wks.	£31.50#	
Inter/Adv	Mon. 12 Jan.	20.30-21.15.	10 wks.	£31.50#	

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Intermediates: Mon. 12 Jan. 19.00-21.00 10 wks. £65.00#

Improvers: Tues. 13 Jan. 19.00-21.00 10 wks. £65.00#

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Beginners (2): Thurs. 15 Jan. 20.00-21.00 10 wks. £37.80#

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Beginners (1) Mon 12 Jan. 16.45-17.45 5 wks. £45.75

Beginners (2) Mon 12 Jan. 17.45-18.45 5 wks. £45.75

Improvers Thurs 15 Jan. 17.45-18.45 10 wks. £50.00

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PHOTOSHOP - AN INTRODUCTION (2)

Mon 23 Feb. 09.30-11.30. 5 wks. £45.00#

MASTERING YOUR ANDROID TABLET

Mon 12 Jan. 12.00-14.00 5 wks. £45.00#

or Mon 23 Feb. 19.00-21.00 5 wks. £45.00#

BUYING AND SELLING ON E-BAY

Mon 19 Jan. 19.00-21.00. 4 wks. £36.00#

Wed 21 Jan. 09.30-11.30. 4 wks. £36.00#

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Mon 12th Jan. 14.30-16.30 5 wks. £45.00#

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</div

Lavish donation to the tune of £250 for busker

BUSKER Bradleigh Aston is used to shoppers giving him their spare change – but he was left speechless by a donation to the tune of £250.

The 18-year-old was singing in Dudley High Street when he was handed the generous gift by a passer-by.

The musician, who spends his weekends busking in the town centre, says he was taken back by the woman's generosity.

Her identity is not known and despite him putting appeals on Facebook and Twitter in a bid to thank her he has been unable to track her down.

Bradleigh, from Lower Gornal, received the cash after appearing in The Chronicle – and the front page of its sister publication The Express & Star in December.

He said: "Since appearing on the front page of the paper I have had a lot of people around Dudley recognising me."

Shocked

"People have been walking past me saying 'Happy Christmas Brad, have a good one.' or 'You are that busker from the paper.' it has been a bit mad."

"The day after I was on the front page I was busking and a woman came up to me and asked for my business card which I gave to her and she walked away."

"A little while later she came back and put a plastic tub into the compartment of my case and said: 'Look after that and have a great Christmas.' and walked away again."

"When I opened the tub up, there was £250 cash in it. I was so shocked I did not know what to say."

"I have tried so hard to get hold of her to say thank you, but I am yet to hear from her."

"I would love to be able to thank her



Bradley Aston, aged 18, who spends his time busking in Dudley High Street

properly. I have not spent the money yet but I am thinking of spending it on recording equipment," he said.

Bradleigh came 13th in the nationwide Brand New Artist 2015 Awards competition, which was run by music label Negart Records.

He said: "It was brilliant to come within the top 15, it was out of 100 artists so I cannot complain.

"The top five get to take part in a televised festival and the top 15 get to

be part of a compilation album next year."

"I worked so hard during the competition to push myself, I had posters around Dudley and posted on my social media sites, the support from the community has been great."

"Because of working so hard, the competition sent me an email asking me to take part in both, I am so thrilled to be given this opportunity," he said.

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Courses	Wks	Day	Time	Price
Belly Dancing Beginners	10	Tue	7 - 9pm	£50.00
Tribal Fusion Belly Dancing (Imp to Adv)	9	Wed	7.45 - 9.15pm	£35.50

Computer Courses - All students need to bring a Memory Stick on The 1st night

Computers for Absolute Beginners (All Ages) * 7.00 - 9.30pm	5	Mon	7 - 9pm	£27.50
Gadget Know How - Get the most out of your Mobile Phone, Tablet, I Pad, Laptop etc	5	Mon	6 - 7.30pm	£22.00
Digital Photography Beginners/Intermediate	5	Mon	7.30 - 9pm	£22.00

Back to Work Courses - All students need to bring a Memory Stick on The 1st night

Introduction to Excel (Produce professional document for home & work) * 7.00 - 9.30pm	5	Tues	7 - 9pm	£27.50
Intro to Basic Book Keeping (Basic knowledge of Excel required) * 7.00 - 9.30pm	8	Wed	7 - 9pm	£43.00

Music Courses

Keyboards for Beginners * 6.30 - 8.30pm	10	Wed	7 - 8.30pm	£38.75
Keyboards for Mixed Abilities (Int/Adv)	10	Wed	7.30 - 9pm	£38.75
Singing for Fun - All Abilities welcome	10	Wed	6 - 7pm	£27.50
Guitars for Beginners	10	Wed	6 - 7pm	£27.50
Guitars for Improvers	10	Wed	7 - 8pm	£27.50
Guitars for Intermediates	10	Wed	8 - 9.30pm	£38.75

Creative Crafts/ Art Courses

Flower Arranging (Mixed Ability) * 7.00 - 9.30pm	10	Mon	7 - 9pm	£55.00
Floristry (Mixed Ability) * 7.00 - 9.30pm	10	Thurs	7 - 9pm	£55.00
Learn How to Use a Sewing Machine * 7.00 - 9.30pm	8	Mon	7 - 9pm	£41.00
Sewing for Improvers - including Alterations and Recycling Textiles	10	Tues	7 - 9pm	£50.00
Art (For Absolute Beginners) * 7.00 - 9.30pm	10	Wed	7 - 9pm	£50.00
Learn to Face Paint (Ideal for Fêtes and Parties) * 7.00 - 9.30pm	5	Thurs	7 - 9pm	£27.50
Cooking for Fellas (All Levels) * 7.00 - 9.30pm	10	Tues	6.30 - 9pm	£75.00
Woodwork for Improvers	10	Mon	7 - 9pm	£50.00
Woodwork for Total Beginners (Introduction into Woodworking skills)* 7.00 - 9.30pm	10	Mon	7 - 9pm	£50.00

Language Courses	Wks	Day	Time	Price
Holiday French (Beginners)	10	Weds	7 - 9 pm	£50.00
Holiday Italian (Beginners)	10	Wed	8.15 - 9.30pm	£34.00
Holiday Italian (Improvers)	10	Wed	5.45 - 7.00pm	£34.00
Holiday Italian (Advanced)	10	Wed	7 - 8.15pm	£34.00

All learners need to bring proof of UK Residency/Identification e.g. Passport, Driving licence

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Shakespeare spoke Brummie

Book Reviews

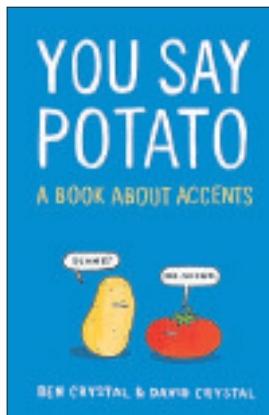
SOUTHERNERS mock the Brummie accent because they actually fear Birmingham as a rival to London. That's one of the theories in *You Say Potato: A Book About Accents* by father and son **Ben and David Crystal**.

In a chapter on the city, which thankfully also points out that Brummie and Black Country are different accents, they say that whilst the Birmingham accent often comes bottom of UK polls (alongside the Ulster brogue) it is popular with foreigners who find it friendly and melodic.

The authors put the blame for its dismal reputation at home on Beryl Reid for her slow-witted Brummie character Marlene in popular 1950s radio show Educating Archie. Jasper Carroll didn't help with his 1970s hit Funky Moped ("I'm gonna ride rode ride").

They suggest Brum needs TV shows or personalities to champion the accent, like The Beatles did for Liverpool or even newsreader Huw Edwards for South Wales. But they doubt Peaky Blinders will do the trick with its mish-mash of Irish, Northern and Midlands.

Many folks do not even realise that celebrated actress Julie Walters comes from the city. Smethwick to be exact, which being part of Sandwell and Staffordshire before that, is technically of the Black Country. This may be due to her early association with lots of Liverpool drama, or chameleon ability of the actor. But who is left to champion the accent? Frank Skinner and Adrian Chiles are both Black Country men, Liam Payne is a Wulfrunian. So that leaves... Ozzy Osbourne? Apart from the slurred accent of the Black Sabbath singer, published in hardback by Macmillan, priced £12.99.



Other recommended recent titles: **Moriarty** by Anthony Horowitz (Orion Books, hardback, £19.99). This is a Sherlock Holmes novel with only a cameo from the Great Detective and named after his villainous nemesis ("the Napoleon of Crime"), who has apparently died with Holmes as they plummeted to their doom at the Reichenbach Falls. Foyle's War creator Horowitz, who did such a good job resurrecting Holmes and Watson in The House of Silk, this time gives Scotland Yard officers, so often derided by Holmes, a chance to show they've learned a thing or two from the famous consulting detective. They join an American Pinkerton agent in an investigation into the rise of a ruthless new crime boss. Horowitz does a good job of recreating the shadowy, smoggy world of late Victorian London and puts a twist in the tale. It's out in paperback in June.

Sherlock Holmes: The Man Who Never Lived and Will Never Die, compiled by Alex Werner (Ebury Press, hardback, £25). This handsomely illustrated celebration of Sherlock Holmes, his creator Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and 19th Century London, has been created by academics to coincide with the Sherlock Holmes exhibition at the Museum of London until April 12 this year.

The Story of the Human Body by Daniel Lieberman (Penguin, paperback, £9.99). From an evolutionary point of view, a lot of what we do today, such as sitting down all day in front of a screen, even wearing shoes, can be seen as a recent and abnormal development. Harvard professor Lieberman argues that in the digital age our lives are out of sync with our cave men bodies. Even sitting down and reading goes against our nature... mind you, I only found that out by sitting down and reading his book. The message seems to be, don't get too comfortable... it could kill you.

Leon Burakowski

Linguists look at British accents

the best known Brummie voice is actor Timothy Spall, who played a character from the city in TV series Auf Wiedersehen Pet in the 1980s. He is from South London.

It's enough to have Shakespeare spinning in his grave, after all being a north Warwickshire lad, the Bard probably spoke with a kind of Brummie twang. Interestingly, actor Ben Crystal and his linguist father, David, both Shakespeare scholars, say the perceived 'posh' accent is a new invention that came after Shakespeare's times. Back then, when you had to speak French or Latin to impress, folks couldn't tell from your accent whether your Brummie home was a manor house or a hovel. You Say Potato is published in hardback by Macmillan, priced £12.99.

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Schools in line for investment in new buildings

FOUR high schools could be in line for multi-million pound investments for new buildings.

South Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson has written to Education Secretary Nicky Morgan asking for new cash for Codsall High School, Ounsdale High School in Wombourne, and Great Wyrley High School.

He is also supporting a bid from Staffordshire County Council to the Department for Education to fund work at Edgecliff High School in Kinver.

Mr Williamson said: "Some of them are using what are effectively glorified temporary classrooms."

"In the case of Edgecliff, I have spoken to schools minister David Laws to emphasise the need for this investment. When you

look at all four schools we could be talking about tens of millions of pounds."

Ben Adams, Staffordshire County Council's cabinet member for Learning and Skills, confirmed a bid had gone in for Edgecliff.

Decision

He said: "A bid has been made to the Priority Schools Building Programme to fund work at Edgecliff High School, but no decision has been announced yet. The council has previously succeeded in winning funding to rebuild primary and secondary schools in the county and is also investing millions of pounds in building new schools to meet growing demand so that children can have a top class education close to home."

MORE than 2,800 jobs at ten local authorities across the West Midlands have been axed over the past two years – and that's excluding the major cuts being made in Birmingham.

Official accounts for each council show almost £57 million has been spent on 'exit packages' for workers who went either voluntarily or through compulsory redundancy since 2012. The cuts have come as councils have seen their funding slashed.

Dudley Council made 210 people redundant in 2013/14 on top of 141 the year before. It cost £3.2m last year and £2.7m in 2012/13.

Neighbouring Sandwell Council lost 187 jobs in 2013/14, compared with 129 the year before. The bill came to £5.8m last year as opposed to £3.3m in 2012/13.

Wolverhampton City Council

alone made 546 people redundant in 2013/14. Of those 99 went compulsorily while the rest took voluntary redundancy. It was a bigger year for job cuts than 2012/13, when 119 went. The bill for redundancy in 2013/14 came to £6.1m compared with £1.7m the year before.

The figures are the latest available to have been audited and will not include the loss of the city council's chief executive, Simon Warren, who retired due to ill health. When he left the council scrapped the role of chief executive and promoted one of the directors, Keith Ireland, to the role of managing director.

Walsall Council axed 210 people in 2013/14 but at a greater cost. The figures show there were 279 redundancies in 2012/13 and 230 the year after. Costs increased from £3.4m to £4.5m.

South Staffordshire Council axed four jobs in each year, costing £96,000 in 2012/13 and £70,000 the following year. Axing 11 posts cost Wyre Forest Council £191,806 in 2012/13 while a further 13 the following year cost £156,039.

At Staffordshire County Council there were 83 teachers in receipt of 'exit packages' and 514 other members of staff, costing £12,933,146.

The year before it had been £10,644,993 for 100 teachers and 399 others.

Cannock Chase Council spent £734,000 on 16 exit packages in 2012/14, dropping to £259,000 for the following year.

Stafford Borough Council spent £183,000 for six exit packages in 2012/13 and £18,000 for one the following year. Lichfield District Council made six people redundant at a cost of £193,277 in 2012/13 and 27 at a cost of £630,878 in 2013/14.

Campaigners want to get on with Rest



Ian Cooper, Donella Russell and Graham Harris pictured outside the former Sons of Rest building in Halesowen

CAMPAIGNERS who saved a former Sons of Rest building from demolition say they are hoping to begin work on restoring the building in the coming months.

The Hasbury Community Association (HSA) has been spearheading the campaign to save the Halesowen building. They say 'red tape' surrounding the lease of the building is currently preventing them from starting the work but hope it will be resolved soon.

Dudley Council transferred the lease of the building to the HSA last year after the group managed to prevent the authority from selling it off for demolition, although it continues to own it.

The group plans to keep the centre open after refurbishing it for the use of the community as a whole and has had interest from several community groups.

Proposed work to the building could cost the association upwards of £7,000. It was constructed in 1940s as one of five sites in the area to be used by war veterans.

Put pharmacists first for advice on health issues

BLACK Country residents have been urged to think 'Pharmacy First' when it comes to dealing with minor ailments over the winter months.

The NHS says many illnesses can be dealt with by a simple visit to see a pharmacist, rather than having to make a doctor's appointment.

A campaign has been launched across the Black Country to remind residents that pharmacists can provide expert advice on a range of ailments, including coughs and colds, flu, headache and thrush.

"Community pharmacies are an excellent source of advice. Antibiotics do not help fight winter ailments and your pharmacist can get you on the right course of treatment without a doctor's appointment."

ional Network said: "For the majority of minor ailments, there is a quicker and more effective way to get assessed and to access treatment without the need to visit your doctor."

"Your local community pharmacy should be the first stop for advice for a range of conditions. This will help to free up valuable GP time which can be used to deal with more complex or serious health needs."

"Community pharmacies are an excellent source of advice. Antibiotics do not help fight winter ailments and your pharmacist can get you on the right course of treatment without a doctor's appointment."

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Gatehouse gig for Blair Dunlop

BLAIR Dunlop is coming to the Gatehouse Theatre, Stafford on January 12. The young Horizon award-winning guitarist has been making a big impression on the folk scene.

Dunlop is supported by rising star Kelly Oliver who had a fantastically busy time last year with the launch of her first album. The show starts 8pm. Tickets are £12.50.

The Woodman Folk Club which meets at The Marina, Kingswinford plays host to Dublin entertainer Tommy Dempsey on January 16. Bill Caddick is back on the circuit and at the Black Country club, after a six year gap, on January 23. Both shows start 8.30pm and tickets for both are £6 for members and £1 for non-members.

Ruby tour days for punk veterans

PUNK rock veterans The Stranglers celebrate 40 years on the music scene with their Ruby anniversary spring tour including a gig at Birmingham's O2 Academy on March 14.

Still featuring original members Jean-Jacques Burnel, Jet Black and Dave Greenfield, plus Baz Warne who has been with the band for nearly 15 years, the March On tour will include special guests The Rezillos.

The Stranglers, originally fronted by Hugh Cornwell, had hits including Peaches, No More Heroes, 5 Minutes, Golden Brown, Strange Little Girl, Skin Deep and Duchess.

Go East for a touching comedy about family divided by culture

Head out on the highway



Rocker, poet, pagan, hip historian and novelist Julian Cope

JULIAN Cope is described by his publishers Bloomsbury as a 'visionary rock musician and musicologist, hip archaeologist and one-time front man of the Teardrop Explodes'.

He is in concert at Birmingham Glee Club on Sunday, January 25.

Cope has released over 20 solo albums, six acclaimed books, including his autobiography Head-On and guide to the German underground rock scene Krautrocksample.

His recent first work of fiction, One Three One, has been dubbed a 'hooligan road novel'.

Tamworth-raised Cope enjoyed chart hits with The Teardrop Explodes in the 1980s, had a huge solo hit with World Shuh Your Mouth and made a string of acclaimed albums. This year he releases a new 'Best Of' compilation covering 1999-2014, entitled Trip Advisor.

The Stranglers, originally fronted by Hugh Cornwell, had hits including Peaches, No More Heroes, 5 Minutes, Golden Brown, Strange Little Girl, Skin Deep and Duchess.

THE critically-acclaimed revival of culture clash comedy *East Is East* is coming to Birmingham fresh from a run in London's West End.

Starring Absolutely Fabulous and Trollick star Jane Horrocks as the mother in an Anglo Pakistani family in 1970s Salford, Ayub Khan Din's poignant comedy-drama was previously best known for the 1999 film version, made three years after the play's stage debut.

The production marks the return to the stage for TV and film star Horrocks, who plays Ella Khan. She is fondly remembered for her role as Edina Monsoon's barmy personal assistant Bubble in 'Ab Fab' and her movie performance alongside Michael Caine and Brenda Blethyn as the shy but remarkably talented Lv in Little Voice.

The play also features the playwright/actor himself with Khan Din as Pakistani chip shop owner George Khan, who is determined to give his children a strict Muslim upbringing. The resulting household tension reaches breaking point as the long-suffering Ella gets caught in the crossfire between her husband and children.

Chilling

East Is East is staged at the city's New Alexandra Theatre for a five-day run from Tuesday to the following Saturday.

There are other panto alternatives in the region with chilling tale of terror The Frozen Scream at The Patrick Centre in Birmingham Hippodrome until Saturday, January 17. Actor/writer Christopher Green and novelist Sarah Walters, who wrote Fingersmith and Tipping The Velvet, have bravely taken on the task of turning a supposedly cursed novel by 1920s writer CC Gilbert into a play.

Drawing upon Norse myths about dangerous supernatural powers lurking in the snow, this immersive production puts the audience alongside the cast — including Rula Lenska — at a decadent 1920s house party during a blizzard where matters take a macabre turn.

The ticket price includes a cocktail for



A scene from the hit revival of *East Is East*

sexually frank and darkly comic monologue Fleabag at Birmingham Rep's The Door venue from January 14 to 21. Written by Phoebe Waller-Bridge and performed by Maddie Rice, it's not for the easily shocked. There is still time to catch the pantos before the festive season becomes a distant memory. Julian Clary unleashes his withering wit as Dandini in Cinderella at Wolverhampton Grand until January 18. Matt Slack, Gary Wilmot and Paul Zerdin form their own crazy gang in Birmingham Hippodrome's spectacular Jack and the Beanstalk until February 1. Roald Dahl fans can have a whizz-banging time at Birmingham Rep with The BFG until January 24.

Bang Bang they're coming here soon

THE pop scene in the West Midlands this year will start with a Bang Bang when Jessie J performs at a sold-out Birmingham 02 Academy on January 27.

She plays the city as part of her six-date January UK tour after storming back into the charts with her hit Bang Bang with Ariana Grande and Nicki Minaj.

In October the release of her third studio album Sweet Album secured Jessie her third UK top five album and another MOBO Award for 'Best Female'.

Grande and Minaj also have gigs coming up in Birmingham, rapper Minaj is at the Barclaycard Arena on April 3 and Grande brings her Honeymoon tour to the same venue on June 9.

Woosey time for the Robin2

MATT Woosey will be bringing his blend of acoustic and blues music to the Robin2, Bilston on January 14. Woosey is touring on the back of his latest album Wildest Dreams. Tickets are £8 in advance or £10 on the door. Woosey will be supported by Rebecca Downes.

Highly respected musician Phil Beer, also of Show of Hands fame, comes to the Red Lion Folk Club, King's Heath on January 14. Beer will be bringing the sounds of his new album Plays Guitar and Fiddle, Sings A Bit. The show starts at 7.45pm with the doors opening 7.15pm and tickets cost £13.

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SATURDAY'S TV JANUARY 10

CHOICE



Rita Ora

The Voice UK (BBC1, 7pm)

New series. The return of the music contest in which the emphasis is on vocals rather than looks. With the departure of pop princess Kylie Minogue from the judging panel, R'n'B singer Rita Ora joins veteran star Tom Jones, producer, writer and rapper Will.i.am and Kaiser Chiefs frontman Ricky Wilson. As always, the contest kicks off with the blind auditions, in which the coaches begin the process of building their 12-strong teams by sitting with their backs to the auditionees and spinning their chair if they want that singer. If more than one coach turns, then the hopeful gets to choose whose team they join. Presenters Emma Willis and Marvin Humes are on hand to console and congratulate the hopefuls backstage.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.** **10.00 Saturday Kitchen** Live. **11.30 James Martin: Home Comforts.** **12.00 BBC News: Weather.** **12.10 Football Focus.** **12.50 Saturday Sportsday.** **1.00 Live Athletics:** Great Edinburgh Cross Country. Coverage from Hopwood Park. **2.35 Live Darts:** BDO World Championships. The opening men's semi-final. **4.30 Final Score.** **5.20 Pointless Celebrities.** (R) **6.10 BBC News**
- 6.30 Now You See It.** New series. The best and worst of the magic world, featuring incredible performances from across the globe as well as tricks going wrong. Narrated by Mel Giedroyc.
- 7.00 The Voice UK.** New series. The return of the music contest in which the emphasis is on vocals rather than looks. With the departure of pop princess Kylie Minogue from the judging panel, R'n'B singer Rita Ora joins veteran star Tom Jones, producer, writer and rapper Will.i.am and Kaiser Chiefs frontman Ricky Wilson. As always, the contest kicks off with the blind auditions, in which the coaches begin the process of building their 12-strong teams by sitting with their backs to the auditionees and spinning their chair if they want that singer. If more than one coach turns, then the hopeful gets to choose whose team they join. Presenters Emma Willis and Marvin Humes are on hand to console and congratulate the hopefuls backstage.
- 8.30 The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List.** Shane Richie hosts the game show in which two contestants have three attempts to win each other's dream prizes. Including the lottery draws, with Kate Corrigan.
- 9.20 Casualty.** Connie is torn between spending time with Grace and dealing with a demanding patient. Zoe treats an old man who makes her realise life is too short.
- 10.10 BBC News: Weather.**
- 10.30 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clubs, including Everton, Manchester City at Goodison Park and Chelsea vs Newcastle United at Stamford Bridge. National Lottery Update.
- 12.00 The Football League Show.** **1.20 Film:** Kevin and Perry Go Large. (2000) **2.35 Weather for the Week Ahead.**

BBC2

- 6.00 Film:** Apache Territory. (1958) **8.45 Film:** The Maggie. (1954) **10.15 Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain.** (R) **10.45 Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain.** (R) **11.15 British Isles: A Natural History.** (R) **12.05 James Martin: Home Comforts.** **12.50 Michael Caine Talking Pictures.** (R) **1.45 Film:** The Secret File. (1995) **3.30 Escape to the Continent.** starring Michael Caine. **3.45 Live Darts: BDO World Championships.** The ladies' final. **6.00 Flip It! Trade Secrets.** The experts offer advice on buying and selling military memorabilia and presenter Paul Martin explores the issues surrounding collecting antique firearms. **6.30 Sacred Wonders of Britain.** Neil Oliver travels to Iona in the Inner Hebrides to learn about St. Columba's tough brand of monasticism, and finds out how the epic journey of St Cuthbert led to the writing of the Lindisfarne Gospels and the building of Durham Cathedral. At Canterbury Cathedral, Neil discovers how the gruesome murder of Thomas Becket spurred the building of its nave, and on Glastonbury Tor in Somerset, investigates the story of the Holy Grail, the sacred cup of everlasting life. Last in the series. **7.30 The Last Days of Anne Boleyn.** Hilary Mantel, Philippa Gregory and David Starkey sift through the evidence to try to determine why Henry VIII's second wife was executed in 1536. **8.00 Dad's Army.** Captain Mainwaring and his platoon are ordered to clear the area for a major army exercise – but encounter a problem in the shape of a steam engine blocking the path. **9.00 Britain's Tudor Treasure: A Night at Hampton Court.** Historians Lucy Worsley and David Starkey present a re-creation of the christening service of Henry VIII's son Edward on October 15, 1537. **10.00 Film:** The Other Boleyn Girl. (2008) A bitter rivalry develops between sisters as they compete for the affections of King Henry VIII. Historical drama, starring Natalie Portman, Scarlett Johansson and Eric Bana. **11.05 ITV News: Weather.** **11.20 Film:** Skyfall. (2012) Concluded. **12.20 Off Their Rockers.** (R)

ITV

- 6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street.** **6.10 Bottom Knocker Street.** (R) **6.20 Bottom Knocker Street.** (R) **6.35 Dino Dan.** (R) **6.45 Dino Dan.** (R) **7.00 Cannibals.** (R) **7.10 Sooty.** (R) **7.25 Signed Stories:** Share a Story. **7.30 Scrambled!** Scrambled. **7.35 Scrambled!** Nerds & Monks. (R) **7.45 Scrambled!** Adventure Time. **8.00 Scrambled!** Horrid Harry. (R) **8.30 Scrambled!** Hulk and the Agents of Smash. **9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** **10.20 Murder, She Wrote.** **11.15 ITV News:** Weather. **11.25 Ejector Seat.** (R) **12.25 Britain's Best Back Gardens.** (R) **12.25 Who's Doing the Dishes?** (R) **12.25 Tipping Point.** (R) **3.25 Diversity Live.** (R) **4.25 Regional Programme:** Weather. **4.35 ITV News:** Weather. **4.55 Film:** Mamma Mia! (2008) Musical comedy, starring Meryl Streep. **7.00 Harry Hill's Stars in Their Eyes.** New series. The larger-than-life comic steps into the shoes of former hosts Leslie Crowther, Matthew Kelly and Cat Deeley to front this latest reincarnation of the show in which five members of the public are transformed into their singing heroes to perform an iconic hit to an appreciative studio audience. The winner of each round goes forward to the final, with the chance to pick up the series' coveted chocolate. **8.05 Take Me Out.** Chocolate factory worker Peter, city slicker Liam, oil rig engineer Colin and gymnast Chris vie for the attentions of 30 single women, intent on capturing their interest and securing a date – but first they must get the female participants to give them points on a sign of approval. Host Paddy McGuinness monitors their progress and also reviews the dating action from last week's couples on the Isle of Fernando. **9.20 Film:** Skyfall. (2012) James Bond pursues a mysterious criminal mastermind who has orchestrated a terrorist attack on MI6 headquarters and exposed the identities of undercover agents around the world. The trail leads to a rogue former operative who has a personal vendetta against the intelligence organisation's leader. Action thriller, starring Daniel Craig, Javier Bardem, Judi Dench and Ralph Fiennes. **11.05 ITV News: Weather.** **11.20 Film:** Skyfall. (2012) Concluded. **12.20 Off Their Rockers.** (R)

CHANNEL 4

- 6.10 How I Met Your Mother.** (R) **6.35 How I Met Your Mother.** (R) **7.00 Cycling: Revolution Series.** **8.00 The Morning Line.** **9.00 The King of Queens.** (R) **9.30 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **10.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **10.30 Frasier.** (R) **11.00 Frasier.** (R) **11.30 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **12.30 Speed.** The Big Bang Theory. **12.30 Speed.** with Guy Martin. (R) **1.30 Channel 4 Racing.** Live coverage from Warwick and Kempton Park. **4.00 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **5.00 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **5.30 The Simpsons.** (R)
- 6.00 The Simpsons.** In another trio of horror tales, Lisa discovers Bart's demented twin in the attic and creates an alternative world in a margarine tub – before becoming its god. **6.30 Channel 4 News.** **7.00 The Restoration Man.** George Clarke meets Russell Edwards and Nadia Smith, who are trying to build a family home out of a derelict 18th-century farmhouse in the Shropshire countryside. (R) **8.00 Tsunami: 10 Years On.** Documentary studying the aftermath of the Boxing Day 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, a decade after it took place. Featuring archive footage and interviews with experts and eyewitnesses. First shown on More4. **9.00 Film:** Bad Teacher. (2011) Cynical, hard-drinking teacher Elizabeth Halsey hates her job and the kids in her class, and hopes to escape her daily grind by landing a rich husband. A wealthy substitute seems like a suitable candidate, but she has a rival for his attention in a squeaky-clean colleague. Comedy, starring Cameron Diaz, Justin Timberlake, Jason Segel and Lucy Punch. **10.50 Sarah Millican: Chatterbox Live.** Stand-up show recorded at London's Bloomsbury Theatre in 2011, in which the comedienne shares humorous insights into her life, including the perils of living alone. (R) **11.50 Film:** Cocktail. (1988) An ambitious bartender with dreams of running his own establishment is torn between the waitress he loves and a wealthy older woman. Drama, starring Tom Cruise and Bryan Brown. **1.50 Queer as Folk: From the Gay Scene to the Mainstream.** (R) **2.45 Hollyoaks.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!** **9.50 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** **10.25 Access.** **10.30 Ice Road Truckers.** (R) **11.25 Ice Road Truckers.** (R) **12.20 Ice Road Truckers.** (R) **1.20 Film:** Columbus: The Murder of a Rock Star. (1991) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk and Little Richard. **3.15 Film:** Columbus: Grand Deceptions. (1989) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **5.15 Deadliest Storms.** (R) **7.00 Lost Land of the Volcano.** **8.00 Everyday Miracles: The Genius of Sofas, Stockings and Scanners.** **9.00 Spiral.** **10.50 Rock 'n' Roll Britannia.** **11.50 Totally British:** 70s Rock 'n' Roll. **1.55 Top of the Pops:** 1980. **2.25 Lost Land of the Volcano.** **3.25 Sounds of the Sixties.** **3.55 Close.** **ITV2** **12.05 The Cube.** **1.10 Film:** Richie Rich (1994) **3.05 You've Been Framed!** **4.05 You've Been Framed: The Next Generation!** **5.05 You've Been Framed!** **5.35 Film:** Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **7.20 Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **9.20 The Gossips.** **10.15 Film:** Ocean's Eleven (2001) **1.30 Mon.** **1.50 Fake Reaction.** **2.25 Life's Funniest Moments.** **2.50 Teleshopping.** **5.50 ITV2 Nightscreen.** **ITV3** **11.30 Lewis.** **1.35 Inspector Morse.** **3.50 Agatha Christie's Marple.** **5.55 Rosemary & Thyme.** **7.00 Doc Martin.** **8.00 Midsummers Murders.** **10.00 Lewis.** **12.00 Inspector Morse.** **2.00 ITV3 Nightscreen.** **2.30 Teleshopping.** **4** **11.55 Film:** The Cimarron Kid (1952) **1.40 Kokaj 4.35 Storage Wars.** **5.00 Storage Wars:** Texas. **6.00 Live FIA Formula E Championship.** The Buenos Aires ePrix. **8.30 Storage Wars.** **9.00 Film:** The Chronicles of Riddick (2004) **11.20 Film:** Troy (2004) **2.25 Highway Patrol.** **4.45 ITV4 Nightscreen.** **3.30 The Store.** **4.30 Teleshopping.** **5.50 The Store.** **4.30 Teleshopping.** **6** **11.30 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD.** **12.30 Rude(ish) Tube.** **1.30 Troy.** **2.00 The Big Bang Theory.** **4.00 How I Met Your Mother.** **5.00 Rude(ish) Tube.** **6.00 The Big Bang Theory.** **8.00 The 100.** **9.00 Film:** The NeverEnding Story (1984) **11.05 The Big Bang Theory.** **12.00 The Incredibles.** **1.00 How I Met Your Mother.** **2.00 The Ricky Gervais Show.** **3.25 Don't Trust the B**** in Apartment 23.** **4.10 Charmed.** **Film4** **11.00 Cat Ballou (1965).** **1.00 Taxi (2004).** **2.25 Battle of the Sexes (1969).** **4.40 Cleopatra (1963).** **6.35 Beaches (1989).** **9.00 Ghost (1990).** **11.30 The Bay (2012).** **1.15 Scanners (1981).** **3.30 Close.**

DIGITAL

- BBC Three** **7.00 Great Movie Mistakes IV:** May the Force Be with You. **8.00 Top Gear 9.00 Film:** Avengers Assemble (2012) **11.15 Family Guy.** **1.30 Crimz.** **2.00 People Just Do Nothing.** **4.00 Close.** **BBC Four** **7.00 Lost Land of the Volcano.** **8.00 Everyday Miracles: The Genius of Sofas, Stockings and Scanners.** **9.00 Spiral.** **10.50 Rock 'n' Roll Britannia.** **11.50 Totally British:** 70s Rock 'n' Roll. **1.55 Top of the Pops:** 1980. **2.25 Lost Land of the Volcano.** **3.25 Sounds of the Sixties.** **3.55 Close.** **ITV2** **12.05 The Cube.** **1.10 Film:** Richie Rich (1994) **3.05 You've Been Framed!** **4.05 You've Been Framed: The Next Generation!** **5.05 You've Been Framed!** **5.35 Film:** Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **7.20 Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **9.20 The Gossips.** **10.15 Film:** Ocean's Eleven (2001) **1.30 Mon.** **1.50 Fake Reaction.** **2.25 Life's Funniest Moments.** **2.50 Teleshopping.** **5.50 ITV2 Nightscreen.** **ITV3** **11.30 Lewis.** **1.35 Inspector Morse.** **3.50 Agatha Christie's Marple.** **5.55 Rosemary & Thyme.** **7.00 Doc Martin.** **8.00 Midsummers Murders.** **10.00 Lewis.** **12.00 Inspector Morse.** **2.00 ITV3 Nightscreen.** **2.30 Teleshopping.** **4** **11.55 Film:** The Cimarron Kid (1952) **1.40 Kokaj 4.35 Storage Wars.** **5.00 Storage Wars:** Texas. **6.00 Live FIA Formula E Championship.** The Buenos Aires ePrix. **8.30 Storage Wars.** **9.00 Film:** The Chronicles of Riddick (2004) **11.20 Film:** Troy (2004) **2.25 Highway Patrol.** **4.45 ITV4 Nightscreen.** **3.30 The Store.** **4.30 Teleshopping.** **5.50 The Store.** **4.30 Teleshopping.** **6** **11.30 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD.** **12.30 Rude(ish) Tube.** **1.30 Troy.** **2.00 The Big Bang Theory.** **4.00 How I Met Your Mother.** **5.00 Rude(ish) Tube.** **6.00 The Big Bang Theory.** **8.00 The 100.** **9.00 Film:** The NeverEnding Story (1984) **11.05 The Big Bang Theory.** **12.00 The Incredibles.** **1.00 How I Met Your Mother.** **2.00 The Ricky Gervais Show.** **3.25 Don't Trust the B**** in Apartment 23.** **4.10 Charmed.** **Film4** **11.00 Cat Ballou (1965).** **1.00 Taxi (2004).** **2.25 Battle of the Sexes (1969).** **4.40 Cleopatra (1963).** **6.35 Beaches (1989).** **9.00 Ghost (1990).** **11.30 The Bay (2012).** **1.15 Scanners (1981).** **3.30 Close.**

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CHOICE



David Jason

Still Open All Hours
(BBC1, 7.30pm)

Although Arkwright may no longer be manning the unpredictable till, not much else has changed in his famous corner shop. So if some viewers are still claiming that in reality, it would have been taken over by a chain, turned into a tanning parlour or simply closed down all together, they'll be able to sympathise with the snobbish Mrs Dawlish, who this week struggles to believe that such a quaint little place still exists. Luckily, Granville thinks there may be a way to make money out of her incredulity. However, that doesn't mean he's afraid to move with the times – the shopkeeper also has ambitions to open a coffee shop, which is causing quite a stir in the neighbourhood. Meanwhile, Eric, has been landed with a new job.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.** A round-up of national and international news, plus sports reports, weather forecasts and arts and entertainment features. **7.30 Match of the Day.** (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. (R) **10.20 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** **11.50 Food & Drink.**
- 1.00 BBC News Weather.** **1.15 The Big Bang Hunt.** (R) **2.15** Flap It! **2.45 Escape to the Country.** (R) **3.35 Songs of Praise.** **4.10 Film:** Shrek 2. (2004) Animated adventure sequel, with the voice of Mike Myers. **5.30 BBC News;** Regional News; Weather.
- 6.00 Celebrity Mastermind.** Gemma Cairney, Anthony O'gogo, Tina Malone and Dominic Laurie answer questions on subjects including the Spice Girls, the London Underground and Barbra Streisand.
- 6.30 Countryfile.** People and places hit by the 2014 floods in Somerset, meeting the farmer whose livelihood ended up underwater and finding out how it affected the local birdlife. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
- 7.30 Still Open All Hours.** Granville's plans to open a coffee shop cause a stir in the neighbourhood, and snobbish local Mrs Dawlish pays a visit, surprised that such old-fashioned corner shops still exist. David Jason stars.
- 8.00 Antiques Roadshow.** The team returns to Waltham Forest Town Hall in east London, where items include an Art Deco pendant with a hint of ancient Egypt and a purse that saved a German soldier's life.
- 9.00 Last Tango in Halifax.** Celia tries to improve her relationship with Alan and accepts Gary into her life. Despite their tense relationship, she stands by Caroline when some devastating news is received.
- 10.00 BBC News;** Regional News; Weather.
- 10.30 Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman presents action from the latest Premier League fixtures, which were Arsenal v Stoke City at the Emirates Stadium and Manchester United v Southampton at Old Trafford.
- 11.35 Antiques Roadshow USA.** Surviving candidates Metal Leaf, Marlee Matlin, Dionne Warwick and others are tasked to create a children's book and perform its contents to a group of youngsters. **1.00 Weather for the Week Ahead.**

BBC2

- 6.15 Great British Garden Revival.** (R) **7.15 Glorious Gardens from Above.** (R) **8.00 Countryfile.** (R) **9.00** The Football League Show. (R) **10.20 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** **11.50 Food & Drink.**
- 1.00 Sunday Politics.** (R) **12.00 MOT2 Extra.** **1.30 BBC News Weather.** **1.45 The Big Bang Hunt.** (R) **2.15** Flap It! **2.45 Escape to the Country.** (R) **3.35 Songs of Praise.** **4.10 Film:** Shrek 2. (2004) Animated adventure sequel, with the voice of Mike Myers. **5.30 BBC News;** Regional News; Weather.
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- 8.00 Racing Legends:** John Surtees. High-profile car enthusiasts pay tribute to British motorsport greats and re-enact one of their most iconic races. Last in the series.
- 9.00 Antiques Roadshow.** The team returns to Waltham Forest Town Hall in east London, where items include an Art Deco pendant with a hint of ancient Egypt and a purse that saved a German soldier's life.
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- 11.35 Antiques Roadshow USA.** Surviving candidates Metal Leaf, Marlee Matlin, Dionne Warwick and others are tasked to create a children's book and perform its contents to a group of youngsters. **1.00 Weather for the Week Ahead.**

ITV

- 6.00 CITV:** Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Cannibals. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story. **7.30** Scrabblified! Nerds & Monks. (R) **7.50** Scrabblified! Nerds & Monks. (R) **8.30** Scrabblified!
- 8.00 Kate Humble – Into the Volcano.** Part two of two. Kate joins a team of geologists on another research expedition in the southern Pacific as they head to the island of Ambrym in the Vanuatu archipelago. There she undertakes an arduous journey to the volcanic cone Marum – which contains one of only five lava lakes on the planet – absorbing right its heart to discover if another major eruption may be imminent. Along the way she uncovers how the volcano has shaped the culture and traditions of the islanders and discovers what it really means to live each day on its slopes.
- 9.00 Racing Legends:** John Surtees. High-profile car enthusiasts pay tribute to British motorsport greats and re-enact one of their most iconic races. Last in the series.
- 10.00 OI XL.** Extended edition. Question master Stephen Fry continues the comedy quiz's exploration of subjects beginning with the letter L as he asks a range of fiendish questions on the multivised worlds of the little and the large. Joining regular panellist Alan Davies are Pointless co-host Richard Osman and stand-ups Lucy Porter and Phillip Jupitus, who are all hoping they don't fall into the QI elves' traps and set off the klaxon.
- 10.45 Billionaire's Paradise: Inside Necker Island.** Documentary going behind the scenes at Richard Branson's Necker Island, one of the world's most exclusive holiday destinations where guests can pay more than £40,000 a night. (R)
- 11.15 Snooker: The Masters.** Stuart Bingham v Marco Fu. **12.35** Snooker Extra.
- 12.10 The Store.**

CHANNEL 4

- 6.20 How I Met Your Mother.** (R) **6.45** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.10** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.30** Film: Astro Boy. (2009) Animation adventure, with the voice of Freddie Highmore. **3.15** Film: The Princess Diaries. (2001) Family comedy, starring Anne Hathaway. **5.30** Channel 4 News. **6.00** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. **9.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.25** Access. (R) **10.30** Monkey Life. (R) **11.00** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **12.00** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **1.00** Film: Mrs Caldicott's Cabbage War. (2003) Comedy drama, starring Pauline Collins. **3.10** Film: The Pursuit of Happiness. (2006) Fact-based drama, starring Will Smith. **5.30** Film: Aladdin. (1992) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Robin Williams.
- 7.10 5 News Weekend.**
- 7.15 Film:** Jackie Chan's The Medallion. (2003) An evil crime lord tries to capture a boy to bath to assist Robert and Angela, who had their home on the market for five years and Sam and Maria, who have been trying to sell for 10 months.
- 8.00 The Hotel.** Mark makes plans to stage a Scottish-themed event so a coachload of guests will stay put at the Cawdorland and not be tempted to take their money elsewhere.
- 9.00 Walking the Nile.** Levison Wood meets members of the Mundari tribe, who have set up a cattle camp on an island in the middle of the River Nile and lead an isolated yet tranquil existence.
- 10.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Jimmy Carr hosts the irreverent quiz, with team captains Sean Lock and Jon Richardson joined by guests from the worlds of comedy and entertainment. (R)
- 11.05 Film:** Machine Gun Preacher. (2011) Premiere. A former gang member seeks to protect children who have been orphaned during a civil war in east Africa. Fact-based drama, starring Gerard Butler and Michelle Monaghan.
- 1.30 The Last Leg.** (R) **2.25** Film: The History of Love. (2004) **4.05** Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners. (R) **5.00** Hugh's 3 Good Things. Best Bites. (R) **5.05** SuperScrimpers. (R) **12.55** SuperCasino.

CHANNEL 5

- 6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig.** **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.05** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.10** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.15** Bedtime in Pyjamas. (R) **7.30** Make Way for Ducklings. **8.45** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Wanda and the Alien. **8.35** Zack and Quack. (R) **8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.05** Jelli Jamm. **9.25** Lazy Town. (R) **9.50** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.25** Access. (R) **10.30** Monkey Life. (R) **11.00** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **12.00** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **1.00** Film: Mrs Caldicott's Cabbage War. (2003) Comedy drama, starring Pauline Collins. **3.10** Film: The Pursuit of Happiness. (2006) Fact-based drama, starring Will Smith. **5.30** Film: Aladdin. (1992) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Robin Williams.
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- 7.15 Film:** Jackie Chan's The Medallion. (2003) An evil crime lord tries to capture a boy to bath to assist Robert and Angela, who had their home on the market for five years and Sam and Maria, who have been trying to sell for 10 months.
- 8.00 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent.** The property expert heads to Bath to assist Robert and Angela, who had their home on the market for five years and Sam and Maria, who have been trying to sell for 10 months.
- 8.00 The Hotel.** Mark makes plans to stage a Scottish-themed event so a coachload of guests will stay put at the Cawdorland and not be tempted to take their money elsewhere.
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DIGITAL

- BBC Three**
- 7.00** Po's Greatest Dance Craze. **7.25** The Voice UK. **9.00** Backchat with Jack Whitehall and His Dad. **9.30** Russell Howard's Good News. **10.45** Crime. **11.15** Family Guy. **12.00** Backchat with Jack Whitehall and His Dad. **12.30** Russell Howard's Good News. **1.00** Sweat the Small Stuff.
- BBC Four**
- 7.00** Architects of the Divine: The First Gothic Age. **8.00** Queen Victoria's Letters: A Monarch Unveiled. **9.00** Dan Cruickshank and the Family That Built Gothic Britain. **10.00** The Sky at Night: The Billing Pixel Camera. **10.30** Secrets of the Universe: Great Scientists in Their Own Words. **11.30** Meat Loaf: In and Out of Hell. **12.30** Heavy Metal Britannia. **2.00** Heavy Metal Britannia at the BBC. **ITV2**
- 11.35 Take Me Out.** **12.50 Take Me Out – The Gossip.** **1.35** You've Been Framed! **2.05** Film: Valiant. (2005) **3.35** Film: Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium. (2007) **5.30** Film: King Kong. (2005) **9.00** Film: Showmen of the Dead. (2004) **11.05** Film: Not Another Teen Movie. (2001) **1.05** Men in Black: Reunion. (2002) **2.10** The Hot Desk: Neon Jungle. **2.20** Teleshopping. **5.50** ITV2 Nightshores. **ITV3**
- 11.40 Wycliffe.** **12.55** Rosemary & Thyme. **1.55** Film: The Hail of St Trinian's. (1960) **3.35** Inspector Morse. **5.35** Lewis. **8.00** The Zoo. **9.15** It'd Be Alright on the Night: Best of the West. **10.00** Flash Gordon. (1980) **11.20** The Lone Ranger. **12.05** Hell on Wheels. **E4**
- 12.30 Revenge.** **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (2007) **3.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine. **4.00** Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. **5.00** The Big Bang Theory. (2007) **6.00** Film: Big Bang Theory. (1995) **9.55** The Big Bang Theory. **11.20** The Weekenders. **12.30** Rude Tube. **1.35** Rules of Engagement. **2.30** Charmed. **3.10** The Cleveland Show. **3.30** Holyoaks. **Film**
- 11.00 Against the Wind.** (1948) **1.00** Just William. (2010) **3.05** Flash Gordon. (1980) **5.20** Biggles. (1986) **7.15** Fast Girls. (2012) **9.00** Unknown. (2011) **11.15** Wrong Turn at Tahoe. (2009)

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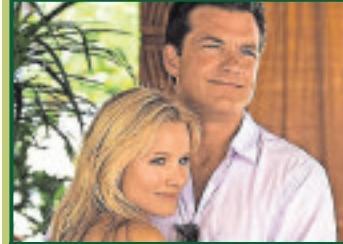
FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Nora Roberts' High Noon, Channel 5, 3.15pm
When a hostage negotiator is attacked in a police station, suspicion falls on an officer whose incompetence she had exposed. However, when the campaign of intimidation continues, she discovers she is being targeted by a deranged criminal who holds her responsible for a tragedy in his past. Crime thriller, with Emilie de Ravin and Patrick Sabongui. (2009)

TUESDAY
Primal, BBC1, 12.05am

Two American reporters and a cameraman travel to Africa in search of a near-mythical giant crocodile that has savaged hundreds to death. However, they not only have a battle surviving encounters with the man-eating predator, but also end up in the throes of a long-standing civil war involving a local warlord who does not take kindly to intruders on his territory. Thriller, starring Dominic Purcell and Orlando Jones. (2007)



Couples Retreat, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

WEDNESDAY
Keeping Up with the Steins, BBC1, 11.35pm

The Fiedler and Stein families embark on a game of one-upmanship as they try to outdo each other in their lavish preparations for their 13-year-old sons' forthcoming bar mitzvah parties. Meanwhile, one of the boys uses the occasion to plan a surprise reunion between his dad and estranged grandfather. Comedy drama, starring Daryl Sabara. (2006)

FRIDAY
Couples Retreat, ITV, 10.40pm

A couple on the brink of divorce sign up for relationship therapy on a tropical island, but find they can save money if they persuade their friends to join them. Three more couples go along for the holiday, thinking they do not need any help – but the unconventional treatment soon exposes cracks in their relationships. Comedy, starring Vince Vaughn and Jason Bateman. (2009)

Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan, Channel 4, 12.30am

A Kazakhstani journalist is sent to the United States to learn about the country and its customs. However, when the inquisitive reporter stumbles across an episode of Baywatch featuring Pamela Anderson, he becomes convinced she is his future bride and embarks on a reckless mission to track her down. Spoof documentary, starring Sacha Baron Cohen. (2006)

PICK OF THE WEEK

Looking to make their dreams come true

George Clarke likes to keep himself busy – so much so that he's often juggling various TV projects as well as running his own architectural firm.

Last March, he told us he was "making series three of Amazing Spaces. I'm making series four of Amazing Spaces at the same time. I'm making series five of Restoration Man, alongside series six of Restoration Man."

Blimey!

Well, at least his fans know that if they miss one instalment, they won't have long to wait until the next.

Amazing Spaces ended its run just before Christmas, and now it's the turn of the aforementioned series five of Restoration Man to take centre stage. And, despite the nation's continuing economic issues, it seems that people are still more than willing to invest in their hard-earned savings in bricks and mortar – even if sometimes there isn't much of either when they take on a building.

"I think they're amazing," says George of those who take part in the

programme. "These are people who are generally jumping into the unknown, taking on grade one or grade two listed buildings, many that have been abandoned for years."

"They do use a phrase sometimes that does make me laugh but is true, and they say, 'If it wasn't so naive, I wouldn't have taken on the project in the first place. But the upside is that they're not paying a king's ransom for these buildings.'

He has a sound piece of advice for all involved, although some don't give it much heed: "Get the professionals around you that can really help you and advise you in the areas you're lacking. As you know from watching the programmes, people do make some really major mistakes where they think they can design it themselves, but they can't and they get it wrong."

"Get a project manager involved if you've never done it before. A project manager is somebody who's seen as an investment, not a cost. They will save you money over the course of the build."

The second episode of the current

run sees George travel to Great Braxted in Essex, where Jim and Bee Goody want to turn a derelict Victorian school into their dream home in the country.

Sadly, they haven't been able to sell their existing house to help them fund the project, so have taken on a bridging loan, but on the upside, George is thrilled to hear that some of the original features they initially felt would hamper their creation of the perfect abode have now become some of their favourite aspects.

"I'm passionate about architecture and all over the country there are beautiful buildings with real soul that need to be saved," explains George. "I'm not interested in creating living museums. The challenge is to give these historic buildings a modern twist and drag them into the 21st century."

"What I loved about this was that these people have such a passion for Britain's architectural history. They just wanted to save the buildings for future generations."

"I love that, I find it really quite humbling."



George Clarke (left) in The Restoration Man, Wednesday, Channel 4, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Broadchurch
ITV, 9pm

In 2013, after the first airing of multi-award-winning drama Broadchurch, viewers cancelled all Monday evening plans for the foreseeable, after David Tenant and Olivia Colman and co gave out such sterling performances, we simply couldn't think of anything else. Conversations, whether around the water cooler at work, or down the pub of a weekend, started and ended with 'who do we think really killed Danny Latimer?' It's safe to say, we were a nation addicted – to a television programme! But such is the calibre of writer Chris Chibnall's work. However, as we'd have expected, the focus of this second series has been shrouded in secrecy, and Chibnall explained: 'I knew, from the start, that there was another story to tell in the world of Broadchurch; so much so that I'd pitched it to Peter Fincham, Director of Television at ITV, in our very first meeting when he greenlit the first series of the show.' Tonight, the drama continues, as DI Alec Hardy and DS Ellie Miller continue their investigative work, the previous case never far from their minds.

TUESDAY
Suspects
Channel 5, 10pm

New series. The return of the crime drama following

the work of three detectives, in which the actors devise their own dialogue based on a detailed plot description. DI Martha Bellamy welcomes back DS Jack Weston after a period of enforced leave following the paedophile investigation, warning him this is his final chance. Jack and DC Charlie Steele investigate when a popular art teacher is found with life-threatening head injuries at a sixth-form college, with suspicions falling on handyman Ben Peel and head Rory O'Hanlon.

WEDNESDAY
Angry, White and Proud
Channel 4, 10pm

There's some hard-hitting stuff in this documentary, which explores how far-right splinter groups are on the rise. It's an eye-opener for director Jamie Roberts, who in his first full-length documentary, gets to know members of the far right – those who call themselves 'patriots', but some of whom admit to being racist and hating Muslims. Jamie and his camera

follow all aspects of their lives, from violent street protests and police arrests, to the ups and downs of their domestic lives. Colin is a former nightclub DJ, but these days, puts all his efforts into his group The South London Infidels, and has such strong negative views on Islam that in the past, it's cost him his job. We also meet Paul, a former key figure in the English Defence League who now heads up the South East Alliance, and a man who joined the far-right cause following the tragic death of his son.

THURSDAY
Cyberbully
Channel 4, 9pm

It's been claimed that 69 per cent of young people in the UK have experienced some form of cyber bullying. Some cynics, especially those who are old enough to remember a time before social

media, may think that the answer is to log off the internet, but as this one-off drama shows us, it's not always that easy. Cyberbully stars Game of Thrones actress Maisie Williams as Casey Jacobs, a teenage girl who like many others her age is in constant digital communication with her friends, whether it's by text, social media or video chats. However, she's about to be faced with the darker side of effectively living her life online when she's targeted by an anonymous hacker. Her ordeal plays out in real time, and while what happens may seem extreme, it's certainly not beyond the realms of possibility or moving into Black Mirror's 'what if?' territory – worryingly, the events depicted have been inspired by real-life cases.

FRIDAY
Race to the Pole
Channel 5, 7pm

Richard Parks takes part in a gruelling, mega-distance running event called the Jungle Ultra. In intense heat over five days, he has to cover a total of 230km across the brutal and unforgiving terrain of the Peruvian Amazon, with the course taking him from the cooler cloud forest down into the Amazon basin and through the jungle itself in Manu National Park. In addition, Richard has to carry all his own provisions with him, including food and safety and camping gear.

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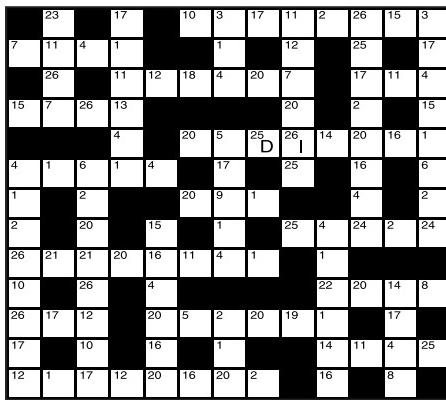
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Kitchen-conservatory is a highlight of this house



AN improved and spacious four-bedroomed individual property, Lower Patin, The Lea, Kidderminster, is for sale through Allan Morris Estate Agents at £375,000.

Set back behind a wide driveway with parking for up to four cars, it has gas central heating and double glazing, a reception hall, a kitchen/conservatory extending to over 26ft, 15ft square conservatory, spacious rear lounge, four bedrooms plus a study/fifth bedroom, with the master having fitted furniture and en suite, bathroom, garden with decking area and a garage. Contact 01562 747755 or visit www.allan-morris.co.uk



Improved three-bedroom home near historic park



THIS tastefully improved three-bedroomed semi-detached house in Manor Lane, Halesowen, has lovely views over The Leasowes historic parkland.

It is for sale through Scriven & Co on £249,950 with no chain. It has a porch, reception hall with staircase off, dining room with a bay window, laminate flooring and a bay window, living room with a multi-panelled glazed door opening out to the garden, a kitchen with cooker recess and a cooker hood, a sun room with vinyl flooring, utility, WC, three bedrooms and a bathroom, garage and garden.

For further information contact agents Scriven & Co on 0121 4224011 or visit the website www.scriven.co.uk



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KINGSWINFORD MOUNT PLEASANT FOR SALE £225,000 Extended Semi Detached House with Hall, Refitted Kitchen, Study/Dining Room, Lounge, Conservatory, Two Reception Rooms, Ground Floor WC, Three Bedrooms, Refitted Bathroom, Double Glazing, Central Heating, Off Road Parking. NEW	BRIERLEY HILL FOXDALE DRIVE FOR SALE £59,950 Purpose Built Second Floor Flat with NO UPWARD CHAIN, Ideal First-Time Purchase comprising of: Lounge, Kitchen, Double Glazing, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking, Communal Grounds. NEW	UPPER GORNAL HILL STREET FOR SALE £73,950 Nicely Presented Leasehold First Floor One Bedroom Flat Comprising of: Entrance hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Reception Rooms, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom. Benefits include: Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front and Rear Gardens, Garage, Driveway. NEW	WORDLEY BALMORAL ROAD FOR SALE £159,950 Semi Detached House with NO UPWARD CHAIN comprising of: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Reception Rooms, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom. Benefits include: Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front and Rear Gardens, Garage, Driveway. NEW
KINGSWINFORD GREENFIELDS ROAD FOR SALE £127,500 Semi Detached Property comprising of: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathrooms, Double Glazing, Double Glazing, Large Frontage, Off Road Parking, Front & Rear Gardens. NEW	KINGSWINFORD MOSS GROVE FOR SALE £179,500 Detached Property to Include: Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Morning Room, Three BedRooms, Bathrooms. Benefits include: Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Large Frontage, Off Road Parking, Front & Rear Gardens. NEW	WORDLEY STABLE LODGE FOR SALE £124,050 Impressive, well presented property in private courtyard Comprising of: Entrance Hall, Large Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen/Diner, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Benefits include: Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking. NEW	AMBLOCOTE KING WILLIAM STREET FOR SALE £155,000 Semi Detached Property with NO UPWARD CHAIN, having had a full refurbishment to include high quality kitchen and bathroom. Comprises of: Lounge, Fully Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathrooms, Conservatory, Two BedRooms and Shower Room. NEW
WORDLEY CROWNDALES DRIVE £475 pcm* Modern Ground Floor Apartment, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathrooms with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Allocated Parking, Maintained Gardens, Unfurnished NEW	KINGSWINFORD HAWKESWELL DRIVE £595 pcm* Mid Terrace House, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Downstairs Cloakroom, TWO BEDROOMS, Bathrooms with shower, Off Road Parking, Gardens to Front & Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing. NEW	AMBLOCOTE KING WILLIAM STREET £380 pcm* SHARED ACCOMMODATION, Part Furnished, Communal Kitchen & Bathrooms, Two BedRooms (one occupied), FIRST FLOOR: Two BedRooms, (one occupied), Office, Communal Toilet with wash hand basin, RENT INCLUDES UTILITY BILLS NEW	WALL HEATH PARKVIEW COURT £425 pcm* Mid-Terrace Bungalow, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom, Bathroom with shower, Off Road Parking, Gardens to Front & Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, UNFURNISHED. NEW
BRIERLEY HILL DADFORD VIEW £395 pcm* Ground Floor Flat, Lounge/Kitchen, Bedroom, Bathrooms with shower, Allocated Parking, Front Garden, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, UNFURNISHED NEW	DUDLEY MIDDLEPARK ROAD £575 pcm* Semi-Detached House, Refurbished and Re-decorated, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, New Kitchen with built in appliances, Three BedRooms, Bathrooms, Gardens Front & Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing. NEW	DUDLEY MINEHEAD ROAD £570 pcm* Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Double BedRooms, Bathrooms, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Garage, Unfurnished NEW	KINGSWINFORD SANDHURST ROAD £625 pcm* Semi Detached Property, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Two Double BedRooms, Bathrooms, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Garage, Unfurnished NEW
PENSNETT KIRKHAM GARDENS £520 pcm* Mid Terrace House, Large Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double BedRooms, Bathrooms with shower, Parking for 2 cars, Front & Rear Gardens, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished NEW	NORTON THE BROADWAY £550 pcm* Large First Floor Flat, Entrance, Good Sized Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double BedRooms, Bathrooms, Garage, Off Road Parking to rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, NO PETS, DSS CONSIDERED NEW	STOURBRIDGE LICKEN ROAD £650 pcm* Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Conservatory, Study, Three BedRooms, Bathrooms, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished NEW	DUDLEY RUSSELLS HALL ROAD £625 pcm* Semi-Detached House, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Three BedRooms, Bathrooms, Garage, Off Road Parking, Front & Rear Gardens, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished NEW
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Ford transit picks up award

By David Banner

The all-new Ford Transit Courier has received the top accolade at this year's What Van? Awards by winning Van of the Year 2015.

Ford continued its winning streak with the Transit Courier also picking up Small Van of the Year, the Transit Connect topping the Light Van category and Ranger collecting Pick-up of the Year.

The Ford Fiesta Van was also highly commended in its category, and the Transit Custom likewise in the Medium Van category.

"Ford's revolution of its light commercial line-up has seen it offer the most comprehensive range of high-quality vehicles in the marketplace, in terms of visual appeal, driver appeal, innovation, technology and efficiency," said What Van? editor, Paul Barker.

"This massive investment has culminated with our Van of the Year Transit Courier offering a massive step forward in the small van segment, succeeding our only ever twice-Van of the Year winner the Transit Custom, while the excellent new Transit Connect is also a worthy winner of the Light Van category."

The awards come at the end of a two-year overhaul of the entire Ford Transit range which included the addition this year of What Van?'s Van of the Year: the Transit Courier.

Dagenham-built engine achieves 76.3mpg and 97g/km CO₂ emissions,

and the multi-award-winning 1.0-litre EcoBoost offers 54.3mpg and 119g/km CO₂ – 15 per cent better than its closest rival.

Additionally, the stylish all-new Ford Transit Courier offers 10 per cent more load volume than its direct competitors with 2.3m³ (SAE) behind the bulkhead, as well as a longer load length at floor level, and greater access width through the sliding side doors.

Sales of the Ford Transit continue to dominate, with both Transit and Transit Custom leading their segments with 26.6 per cent and 33 per cent market share YTD respectively.

The entire Ford commercial vehicle range will now be available from Ford's designated commercial dealer network, called Transit Centres, which will be rolled out across the country next year.

Terry Rayner, director, Transit Centres, Ford of Britain said: "I am delighted to receive the What Van? Van of the Year award for the Transit Courier – a Ford first in the small van segment. 2015 will be the first full year that the entire four-van Transit range will be available and will coincide with the launch of Ford's specialist commercial vehicle dealerships and service centres.

"Transit Centres will be rolled out in over 90 locations across the UK, plus a further 90 service only points, cementing Ford's position as the largest commercial vehicle dealer network nationally."

Additionally, the Ford Transit was a recent winner at the 2014 ACFO Awards, the premier organisation for fleet operators, winning Large Van of the Year for the fourth consecutive year.



'Ford's revolution of its light commercial line-up has seen it offer the most comprehensive range of high-quality vehicles in the marketplace.'

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08/08 Suzuki SX4 1.6 GLX ONLY 16k MILES, Silver, Alloys, Air Con, CD £5495 / £32 Per Week	08/08 Fiat Bravo 1.4 Dynamic 50k, Red, Alloys, Air Con, CD Player £4195 / £24 Per Week
09/09 Vauxhall Corsa 1.3 SXi CDTi Diesel 3dr, 52k, Grey Metallic, Alloys, Air Con £4995 / £30 Per Week	08/08 Nissan Micra 1.2 16v (79bhp) Acenta+ 3dr, 48k, Grey Metallic, *LOW INSURANCE* Air Con £3995 / £23 Per Week
04/54 Audi A4 Sport 1.9 TDi 130 Diesel Automatic 72k, Silver, Alloys, Air Con £4995 / £29 Per Week	07/07 Suzuki Swift 1.3 GL one owner 47k, Burnt Orange, CD Player, E/Windows £3995 / £22 Per Week
07/07 Ford Fusion 1.6 TDCi Plus Diesel 48k, Silver, *ONLY £30 ROAD TAX* *AVERAGE 62 MPG* Alloys £4695 / £27 Per Week	05/05 Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi 115 6sp LX Diesel *ONLY 46k MILES* Beige Metallic, Air Con, CD Player £3295 / £18 Per Week
09/09 Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 SXi 5dr, 46k, Black, Alloys, Air Con, CD £4695 / £27 Per Week	07/07 Kia Picanto 1.1 LS 53k, Silver, *LOW INSURANCE* *ONE OWNER* CD Player, £2995 / £17 Per Week
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All-new i40 for Europe revealed by Hyundai

By Matt Joy

Hyundai Motor has introduced its new i40 Tourer and Saloon, enhancing the brand's product line-up in Europe's competitive D-segment.

A flagship car for Hyundai Motor in Europe at its launch, the original i40 has achieved sales of 100,000 units and played an important role in changing customers' perceptions of the Hyundai brand.

The new i40 now features refined exterior styling, an upgraded range of responsive, efficient diesel engines, the addition of a new seven-speed dual-clutch transmission, improvements in ride and handling and several 'first-for-Hyundai' active safety and convenience features. Many of the new technologies were first seen on the new Hyundai Genesis.

Designed and engineered at the company's European R&D headquarters in Rüsselsheim, Germany, the refreshed design for New i40 retains the distinctive visual appeal and practicality of the original model, combining practicality with engaging design.

Exterior enhancements include an updated design for front and rear lamps, a more sophisticated hexagonal grille, a new front bumper, and new integrated LED fog lamps as introduced in Genesis. The profile is refreshed by newly-designed 16- and 18-inch alloy wheels.

New i40 is available with an enhanced engine line-up of two Euro6-compliant diesel power units from 115 PS up to 141 PS. These have been re-engineered to deliver increased responsiveness and efficiency.

Upgraded

A new seven-speed dual-clutch transmission is available for the upgraded 1.7-litre diesel engine with 141 PS. It provides improved fuel efficiency, and offers drivers fully automatic operation or manual gear changes through paddles on the steering wheel for greater driver involvement.

Technologies included: Integrated Stop & Go (ISG), alternator management system, and active front flaps help to further reduce emissions and fuel consumption.

For better cornering and to improve the overall agility, the New i40 now offers Advanced Traction Cornering Control (ATCC) (subject to market specification). The system uses electronic sensors to emulate the behaviour of a limited-slip differential during cornering, providing additional traction, better grip and improved handling.

New i40's Drive Mode settings are enhanced by the new Rear Electronic Damping Control System (ECS) (subject to market specification), which will be equipped on the rear axle of the most popular New i40 body type – the Tourer. The driver will also be able to adapt the suspension settings through the drive modes to suit his driving style. In addition to the rear suspension, the steering, the transmission logic* and throttle response* are all influenced by the selection. This technology follows the electronic damping control introduced on the Genesis.

Hyundai has expanded the comprehensive list of available active and passive safety technologies for the New i40 even further.

As well as the existing Lane Keep Assist System, additional functions include the new Smart High Beam (SHB) system (available subject to market specification), which monitors approaching traffic and automatically turns off the high beam to avoid dazzling other drivers. This system was first seen on the premium Genesis model.

The new Speed Limit Identification Function system checks roadside signs and displays a current speed limit alert to the driver via the new TFT display on the instrument panel. It is the first time Hyundai is bringing this technology to its line-up. (available subject to market specification)

Also introduced in the New i40 is the company's latest navigation technology with enhanced touchscreen functionality and new visualisation for better usability. The two new audio systems are available with several new features including DAB technology for the top version.

Like all new Hyundai models, the new i40 is backed up by Hyundai's unique, Europe-only, Five Year Unlimited Mileage Warranty package.



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Great value for money in new Jeep Renegade

Pricing for the all-new Jeep Renegade small SUV has just been announced. Order books for this exciting new addition to the Jeep range opened this week, ahead of its arrival mid-February.

With a starting price of just £16,995 on-the-road for the front-wheel drive 1.6-litre eTorq Evo 110hp Sport, the new car represents outstanding value for money.

At the top end of the exciting, all-new Renegade range, the highly specified 2.0-litre MJet 170hp 4WD Auto Low Trailhawk version costs £27,995 on-the-road, and features 17-inch aluminium wheels, dual zone climate control, transfer case, front suspension and fuel tank skid plates, heated front seats and steering wheel, leather upholstery and rear parking sensors.

Unique

A special 'Opening Edition' version, limited to just 200 units will also be available at launch in Alpine White or Omaha Orange, both incorporating a black painted roof and a unique interior and 18-inch wheels.

The all-new Jeep Renegade is the first model in the brand's history to be built in Italy and the first vehicle from Fiat Chrysler Automobiles to be jointly developed by Italian and American designers and engineers. It will be sold in more than 100 countries including the United States.

In the UK, the new Jeep will be available in a full-range comprising four different trim levels – Sport, Longitude, Limited and Trailhawk – equipped with efficient turbo-diesel and petrol engines and available in four-wheel drive or front-wheel drive configurations.

Packed with a strong style and personality, and the right size for both city and countryside, new Renegade has best-in-class interior roominess, excellent on-road driving dynamics and supreme off-road capabilities. It has also just been awarded a Euro NCAP five-star safety rating.

The car's advanced 4x4 systems incorporate category-exclusive rear axle disconnect that switches seamlessly between

two- and four-wheel-drive for reduced energy loss when 4x4 capability isn't needed, improving fuel efficiency in the process. And the first-in-segment nine-speed automatic transmission ensures benchmark performance both on- and off-road.

From any angle Renegade reveals the distinctive design cues of the brand's stylistic heritage, such as round headlamps, signature seven-slot grille and trapezoidal wheel arches.

Two open-air roof systems will be available to provide customers with open-air freedom: a large electric sliding glass roof or the unique-to-segment 'My Sky' – its two panels can be removed and stowed in the boot.

The interior features a modern, refined look, in line with the brand's DNA. The cabin is characterised by attention to detail, innovative colour combinations, high-quality materials, advanced technological contents and clever and functional storage areas.

Standard equipment in the well-equipped entry-level Sport includes air conditioning, DAB radio with touchscreen and Bluetooth, electric parking brake, 16-inch alloy wheels, tyre pressure monitoring, and remote central locking.

Longitude adds features including 17-inch aluminium wheels, six-speaker audio system, roof rails, body coloured door mirrors and handles, cruise control, and front fog lamps.

Limited version further adds 18-inch aluminium wheels, chromed exhaust tip, Forward Collision Mitigation, heated front seats and steering wheel, leather upholstery, privacy glass and rear parking sensors.

"We have all been eagerly awaiting Renegade – here at Jeep, our customers, dealers and the media – and its arrival is now just a few weeks away," says Damien Dally, head of brand, Jeep UK.

"It's exactly what the Jeep brand needs now and certainly, we have seen a huge interest in this exciting new car."

'Jeep' is the original 'Go Anywhere, Do Anything' brand, and we are confident that we can offer great cars at exceptional value to keep Renegade at the front of all prospective buyers' minds."



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Town side come into 2015 on a downer

Tipton Town 0 Causeway Utd 1

AFTER finishing 2014 on a high in the Midland Football League, Premier Division with a first win under the management duo of Nick Pugh and Wes Cox, Tipton will be disappointed to have opened 2015 with a lacklustre display.

Their opponents Causeway, themselves had a new man at the helm – Mark Jones who has Andy Mole since their last outing.

On a bitterly cold January day, the opening exchanges were even as the two sides – understandably, given the pressures of league positions – weighed each other up in midfield with only the sporadic effort on goal being comfortably taken by the two goalkeepers.

After 18 minutes it was the Tipton goal which felt the first real pressure, as a corner kick resulted in a goalmouth scramble which eventually saw Tipton keeper Matt Martin collect the ball.

The deadlock was broken in the 44th minute when excellent work down the Causeway left resulted in the ball being squared to Sam Beasley who made no mistake in drilling the ball past Martin.

Course to train refs of future

A STAFFORDSHIRE college will host a course starting next week for anyone thinking of becoming a football referee.

The Staffordshire FA will run the course, starting January 12 at Erasmus Darwin College in Chasetown.

The course, which costs £110 per person, consists of five modules covering the 17 laws of the game.

These will be covering areas such as the art of positioning and movement, management strategies and ideas on decision-making and effective reporting of misconduct.

The course is open to anyone aged 16 and above, and for more information contact Gemma Turner on 01785 279828.

Lions cup fightback is not enough

Northampton 14 Lions 11

THE Lions travelled to Northampton for their Cup quarter-final against Old Scouts in good heart.

The first 15 mins proved crucial to the whole game with two tries to Scouts, with breaks through the midfield, both converted for a 14-0 lead.

At this point the Lions were clearly still on the bus and had yet to compete.

Slowly but surely the Lions began the process of working their way back and, for much of the remainder of the game, were the better side.

Rugby

They withstood the Scouts attacks for most of the rest of the half and, around the 20th minute Ben Trinham spelled panic with a fine try.

Ten minutes later a series of drives by the Lions and desperate defence by the home side in their own 22 with several attempts to kill the ball ended with Sam Wilson kicking a simple penalty when, with a little good fortune, a further try was beckoning. The

half ended with the Lions six points down.

In the first five minutes of the second half another bout of Lions pressure in the home 22 led to another penalty for Wilson to reduce the arrears to three points.

By now the Lions pack were beginning to dominate, with the front-row in on the charge and Stu Doolittle and Tom Gallup prominently athletic around the field and in the loose.

The remainder of the half was nip and tuck but the Lions looked the more dangerous, not least when, with around five minutes to go, infringements by Scouts led

to them being kicked back to their own 22.

A further infringement gave the Lions the chance of a catch and drive where the ball was agonisingly lost before it could be grounded.

A further penalty and lineout was, to Scouts' credit, stolen and the pressure cleared.

A competitive game with both sides having their moments but the Lions came away feeling they could and should have won against a side top of their division.

Next week it is back to league action with the Lions facing Old Salts.

Athletes step into New Year with run

DUDLEY and Stourbridge Harriers athletes where well to the fore at the weekend when they were taking part in the Worcestershire County cross country Championships at Cofton Park.

For the men Lee Slater continued his fine form taking the senior title with a time of 35min 30sec.

Dave Nation was 15th in 39.25; Paul Waby just behind in 18th in 39.57 and also taking the veteran M50 title.

Also for the club was Dave Ratcliffe who came in 22nd with a time of 41.06 and next was Rob Meredith a few seconds later 27th with 41.43.

Tom Slater was another winner in the under-13 boys race, leading the Dash team to second place as Adam Horton finished in ninth place in front of Adam Bodin who came in 11th followed by Harry Walters 12th.

Reece Ashfield ran well for fourth in the under-15 boys race and Jay Prianato 10th.

Tom's sister Grace Slater had a great run as she finished fifth in the under-13 girls race.

Elliot Jones in the under-17 boys race ran well for fifth place with Ashleigh Bentley coming in with the seventh spot.

Sako can't leave on high note

Fulham 0 Wolves 0

HARD as he tried, Bakary Sako couldn't quite give Wolves something to remember him by.

At times in this game the Mali winger seemed to be on a one-man mission to find the moment which would have sent him to the African Cup of Nations with the plaudits ringing in his ears.

He came close when home keeper Marcus Bettinelli diverted his first-half drive onto the post thanks to the slightest of touches. A second-half snapshot also fizzed past the post while numerous crosses came close.

But the moment never came and Wolves now face an extra game again at Molineux.



Stourbridge's scrum half Jacob Nash gets the kick away during the battle at Northampton

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Annual running ritual for DK club

THE New Year started with a bang for athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club with the club's traditional New Year's Day Handicap race.

A 4.1 mile event goes from DK Rugby Club.

Rather than every runner starting together the slowest goes off first and the fastest goes off last with everyone else given adjusted start times in between the two depending on their ability with the intention that, if the handicapper has done his job properly, everyone finishes together.

With someone to chase and someone chasing you it makes for an interesting spectacle as runners approach the finish together in a big group.

With the race open to all-comers, not just DK members, it was left to Tipton Harrier, Tom Holden to record the fastest time of the day finishing in 21.43, from the DK pair of Ben Foster in 22.09 and Matt Biggs in 23.54.

In the women's event it was a home win for Sandra Brain who finished in 29.11. Cath Quane was runner up in 31.21 and Carol Fisher was 3rd in 31.31 making it a clean sweep for the blue hoops.

The prize for "nearest the handicap" going to Darren Thompson.

Varnish picked for cup squad

JESS VARNISH has been included in a young Great Britain squad for the third and final round of the Track World Cup series, affording senior riders a break ahead of the Track World Championships.

Results at the London round left coaches reaching for their calculators to work out qualification points for February's World Championships in Paris.

Britain won four gold medals in London and only two of the squad from this month's event will travel to Cali, Colombia, for the third World Cup competition, which takes place from January 16 to 18.

Halesowen Cycling Club's Varnish and Vicki Williamson will compete in the women's sprint disciplines as part of a 16-rider squad of predominantly British Cycling's Olympic Academy Programme riders.

Penalties prove a problem for Old Hales

Nuneaton 24 Old Halesonians 14

OLD Hales were disrupted by a late cry off from coach Mark Evans and Skipper Rich Taylor. The front row was made up of Tom Dempsey, Callum Young at hooker and Pete Fitzgerald taking Taylor's place on the loose head after weeks of injury.

For the first 12 minutes Hales put pressure on the home team.

They managed to get themselves a 14-0 lead, the first try from some excellent forward and back combination play following a lineout ball from Tom King for full back Chris Hooper to score a well worked try,

Rugby

converted by him. Shortly after a Nuneaton attack saw a long pass in the backs, intercepted by Hooper, who sprinted 50 metres for his second try and conversion.

All this despite Hales being under immediate pressure from the home pack, this continued throughout the game. Hales gave away far too many penalties.

This resulted in three of the four penalties converted to reduce the deficit to 9-14. Hales managed to put themselves in try

scoring positions near to the Nuneaton line but failed to take advantage.

Continued pressure close to the Nuns line was not capitalised on despite the home side at one point down to 14 men. This was a crucial part of the game, the half time lead left Hales in a confident position with lots to do.

The second half was all Nuneaton with Hales struggling to dominate. The penalty count continued. Nuns continued the pressure.

A penalty and a converted try in close succession gave Nuns the lead and Hales

were again against it when prop Padian received a yellow card. The home side again took the game to Hales and an interception gave them the win.

Team manager Simon Hussey said "We did not compete up front and gave too many penalties away, something we thought we had solved."

"We need to regroup." Old Hales meet Sutton Coldfield away this Saturday, kick off 2.15pm.

Old Halesonians 2nds 13 Nuneaton 2nds 10

Old Halesonians 4ths 40 Essington 10.



Weakened side

Injury hit Stour downed by two

Page 39

email: Chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Yeltz are put on the spot

Halesowen Town 4 Barwell 1

HALESOWEN bounced back to winning ways with a convincing victory where three goals came from the penalty spot.

Man of the match Aaron Daniels caused all the early danger and fired Halesowen into an eighth minute lead with a smart finish from the left after being set up by Tom Tonks for his first Halesowen goal.

The opening stages of the second half gave little hint of the drama to unfold.

Referee Stuart England awarded three within six minutes.

In the 61st minute Daniels was impeded on his second attempt at goal with England pointing to the spot.

Christie smacked home to double Halesowen's lead.

A second penalty award fell for Aaron Forde to convert the spot-kick.

Barwell reduced the arrears when Carney stroked home another penalty. Elliott Turner completed the scoring at 4-1 as his low shot nestled into Beeson's bottom corner.

In injury time Turner almost added a fifth.

Derby day for FA Cup draw

ALBION will travel to Blues for a Midlands derby in the FA Cup fourth round.

The Baggies will visit St Andrew's for the first time since March 2011, when they won 3-1 when both were Premier League sides.

Wolves will go to Premier League Sunderland if they beat Fulham in the replay. Villa face Bournemouth.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, January 8

GLASSBOYS SHUT OUT THE ALBION

Stourbridge 3 Witton Albion 0

STOURBRIDGE brushed off their poor performance at Rushall on New Year's Day to impress in front of the home fans.

They were always on top against a Witton side who are struggling to get away from the lower reaches of the Evo-Stik Premier Division.

Football

The win sees the Glassboys move up to 10th place in the league table.

The Glassboys pushed from the start and Kayelden Brown went close on eight minutes but saw his shot tipped over by visiting goalkeeper Andy Robertson to keep the scoreboard clean.

But that was change in an instance from the resulting corner taken by Drew Canavan, Exodus Geohagon produced a bullet header from close range to give the keeper no chance and notch his first goal for the Glassboys.

Equalised

Witton almost equalised shortly after with their only real chance of the game when Luke Clark sent a great free-kick towards goal but it was tipped onto the bar by Dean Coleman to preserve the Glassboys' lead.

On 20 minutes, Luke Benbow slipped a short through-ball to Brown who applied the finish to double his side's lead to 2-0.

It could have been four by half-time, as Benbow found space and had two good chances, one when he chipped that ball wide of the mark and another when he saw his flick towards the op-



Brown wheels away in delight after scoring his goal for Stourbridge during the shutout against Witton Albion



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